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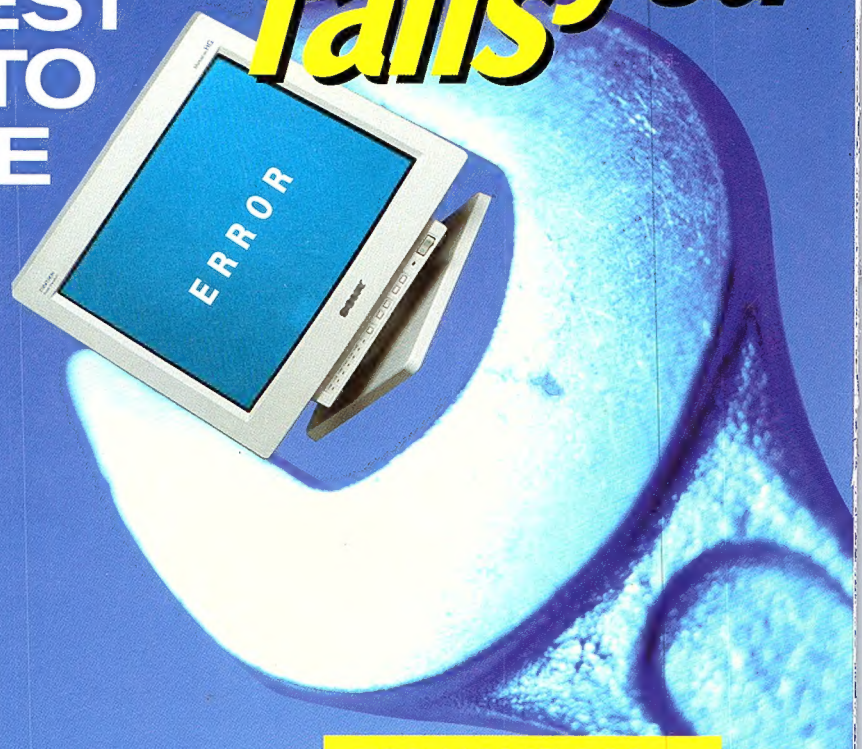

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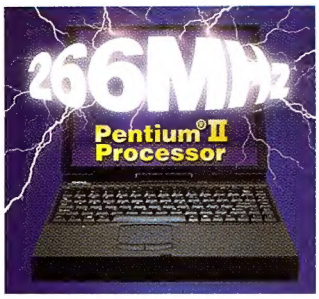

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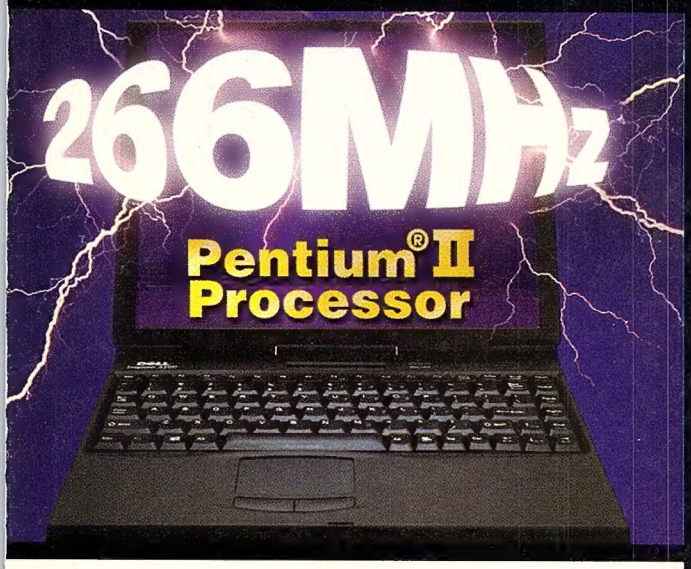

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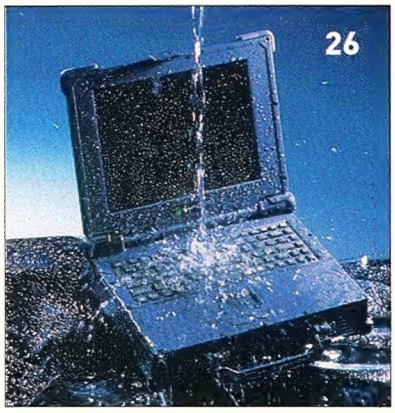

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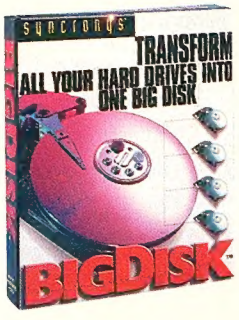

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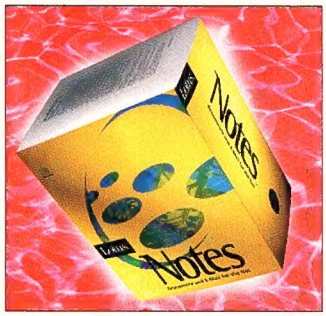

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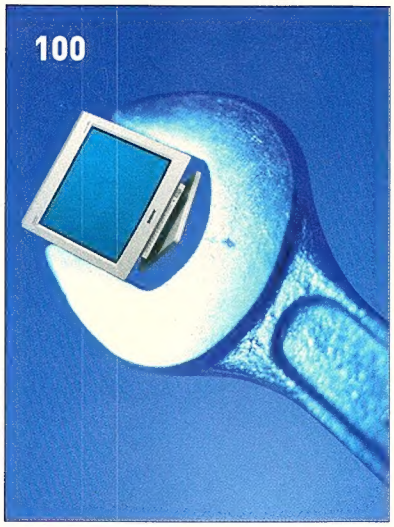

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Buy after you try

Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and look into your heart: is your conscience clear?

What is shareware? It's the stuff we cram onto our cover CD every month, right? It's free stuff, right? I suspect that many computer users can't answer this question, and regularly abuse the shareware model . . . but first, a story.

Many years ago, in a galaxy far, far away, two men each wrote a program. Jim Knopf, the self-confessed "Father of Shareware", wrote PC-File, a simple database program for his Mac, while Andrew Fluegelman authored PC-Talk. The year was 1982.

Now it seems Jim was no dummy because when the IBM Personal Computer was announced – in his own words – "I perceived instantly that the machine would revolutionise the personal computer industry, so I sold my Apple computer the same day and placed my order for an IBM PC." (Some people are still tossing around this decision, but that's another story.)

Jim was continually refining his database program and trying to keep in contact with the people to which he had given copies. He decided the best way was to place a message in the program itself, asking users to send in a modest donation if they wanted to be included on a mailing list (a postal one at that) of program changes. Otherwise the message was: "keep using the program and share it around".

Meanwhile, Andrew had independently taken the same approach to maintaining his PC-Talk app, and the two men eventually crossed paths. Their little "marketing experiment" took off like the proverbial rocket as they started cross-promoting their products.

In Jim's words: "Everything was right. PCs were selling like hotcakes, and there were few database programs available. Other programs were burdened with clumsy copy protection schemes; here was a program [PC-File] that encouraged users to copy it. Other programs were high priced; here was one that modestly suggested a small payment. Other programs had to be purchased before being tried out; here was one that could be tried out extensively before the purchase. Other programs were sold from retail stores; here was a radical new marketing idea, and the computer magazines were hungry for such things to write about."

Nothing much has changed. These points are still valid, but two others have emerged: the Internet, and the embrace of the shareware paradigm by mainstream software vendors – one feeds the other.

According to c|Net, shareware is "software that is distributed over the Internet". This highlights the revolution that the Internet has wrought on the distribution of shareware because, of course, for many years it was all distributed via floppy diskettes and the postal system before this Net thing came along. And this has brought the large software vendors into the game, who distribute apps cobbled with a feature or time restriction. Technically, these are demo or trial versions, rather than full-featured shareware, but the waters are well and truly muddied now, as software vendors of all sizes go to market with "try before you buy".

So, you've installed a piece of shareware from the PC World CD-ROM, it's doing everything you wanted it to do, and suddenly it throws up a screen: "Please send us some money." Should you pay?

The Association of Shareware Professionals (ASP) says "Payment is required if the user has found the software to be useful or if the user wishes to continue using the software beyond the evaluation (trial) period. Basically, [you should pay] for the same reason you should pay for any program: because it is the honest thing to do."

And this is the reason for this column: guilt.

For days I have been looking at these reminder messages from a shareware app: "Please support shareware. Your support, by registering this program, is important to us. You owe it to the real people and their families who make a living on this program."

There are little kiddies who don't eat because I haven't registered my shareware! I can't stand it any longer!

And I am only confessing because I know I'm not the only computer user with the odd piece of unregistered shareware installed. This week I'll send off the money for registration and then fire up that app with a clear conscience. Feed a programmer today – I feel better already.

So, unite with me in mass confession (or confessional Mass?) and join the up to 50 per cent of users, according to the ASP, who actually register their shareware.

Mark Stafford

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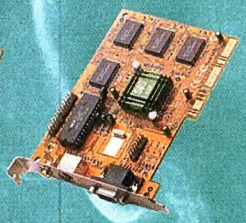

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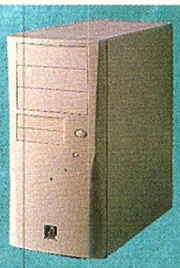

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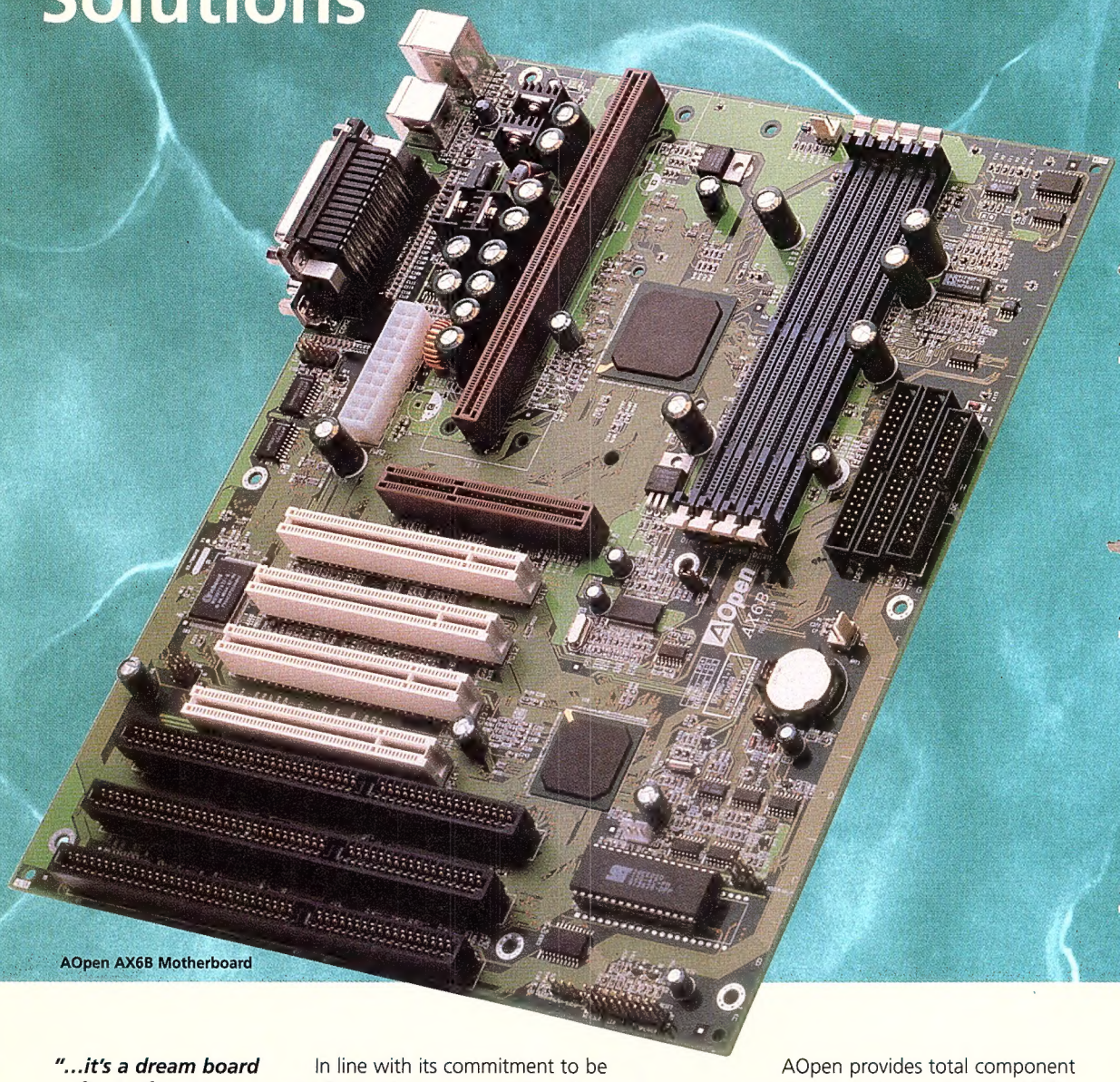

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The PC World CD-ROM will load automatically if you have Windows 95 and a Web browser installed. If you have Windows 3.x and a Web browser installed, load index.htm from the root directory on the CD-ROM. To install a browser – and for more information about the CD – see the readme.txt file in the root directory. Limitations of any evaluation programs are explained on the CD-ROM.

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Utilities for a healthy PC: BCM Diagnostics, Checkit5, CleanSweep, Drag & File Gold, Drag+View, Ezip Wizard, First Aid 97, Keyview, Microhelp Zip, Norton Crashguard, Norton Uninstall Deluxe, Norton Utilities, Nuts & Bolts, PKZip, Powerdesk Utilities, Quick View, Quick View Plus, Turbo Browser 98, Uninstaller, VT Rescue, Windelete, Winzip 6.3, ZipMagic.
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ESSENTIALS

A selection of programs and tools that we wouldn't be without: Paintshop Pro 5.01, QuickTime 3.0, Winzip6.3, Acrobat Reader 3.0, RealPlayer 5, DirectX 5.2

HELP SCREEN

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FIRST LOOKS & REVIEWS

Anfy Java, Illuminatus, Prudence, Web Submission Wizard, and test pictures from our digital camera review

GAMES

70MB of games: Outwars, Commandos, Quake II

CONTENTS

Contents of the current and previous CDs. Also includes a complete listing of PC World issues from December 1996–July 1998.

TOP 10

Reviews of all 30 PCs and notebooks in the Top 10 lists this month

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- Daily Dummies software tips – delivered by e-mail daily, from the trusted know-it-alls at Dummies Books

PLUS:

- All the Help Screen tips, fully searchable
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- Links to online shopping sites
- Links to the best games sites and e-zines

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To subscribe to Australian PC World or to notify a change of address, phone Maggie Saunders on (02) 9902 2744 or e-mail to Maggie_Saunders@idg.com

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Distributed nationally by Gordon & Gotch Ltd

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Magazine design: Wishart Design Pty Ltd
Film: Graphus Pty Ltd
Printing: Offset Alpine Printing Ltd

Australian PC World is published by IDG Communications Pty Ltd

IDG Communications Pty Ltd
Director: Patrick J McGovern
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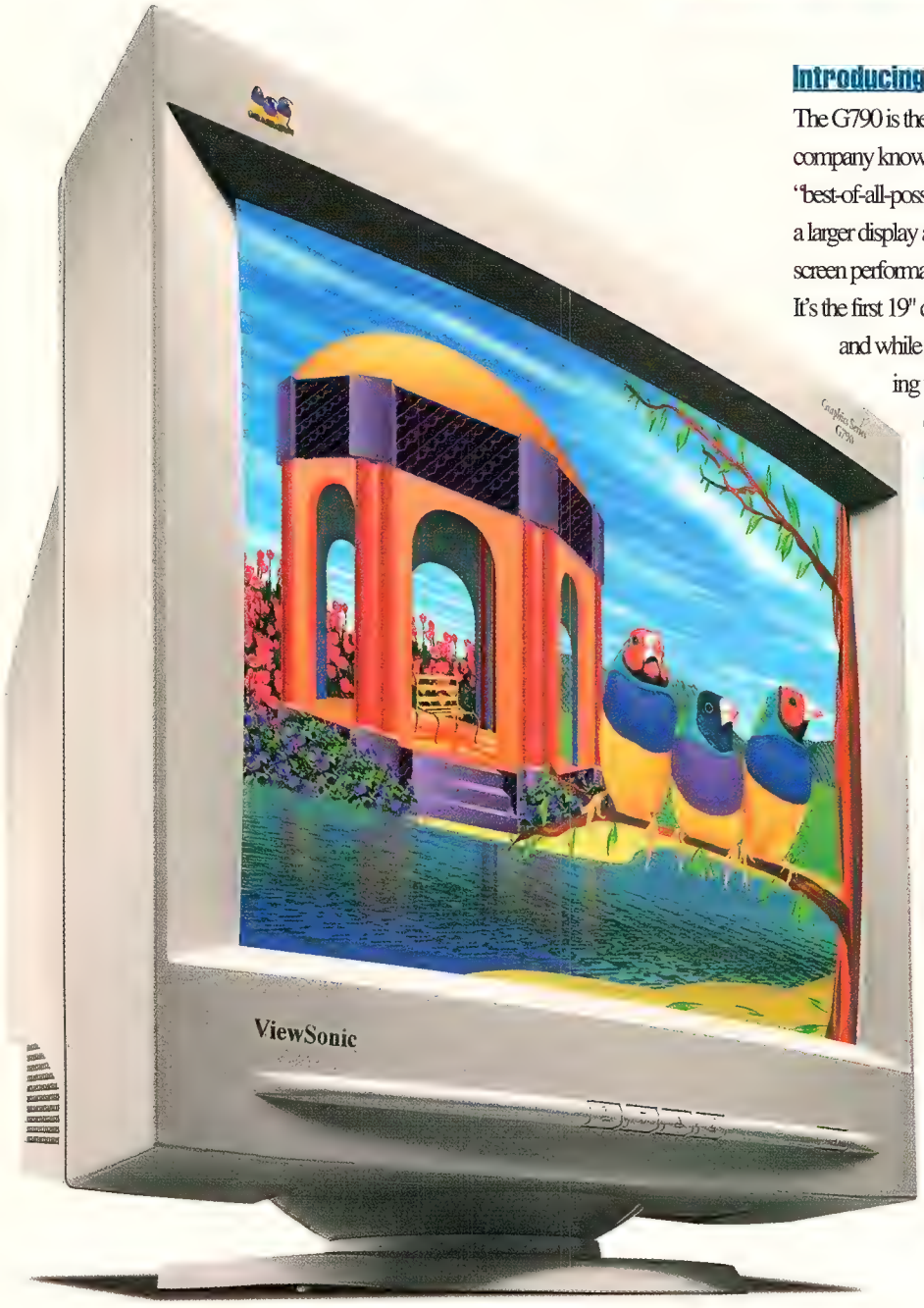

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Dialogue Box

Industry Watch

TWO OUT OF FIVE

By Beverley Head

Two out of every five Australian households boasts a personal computer.

Not the effective saturation penetration of the telephone, TV, or even the video recorder, but a substantial portion of Australian homes nevertheless for a piece of machinery which is probably the next most expensive household item after the family car.

The third annual Australian Bureau of Statistics investigation of household use of IT found that 42 per cent of all Australian households now own PCs (2.9 million households). Of those, 2.4 million households said they used them regularly; in fact, 47 per cent use the PC daily, 28 per cent use them more than twice a week, 8 per cent use PCs once a week, and 4 per cent seem to think the PC is meant to sit in a corner and gather dust in perpetuity.

Australia's PC penetration is just a fraction behind the pace in the US, where a Ziff-Davis survey this year identified 44.8 per cent of US homes as being PC-equipped. Australia may match the US shortly, as the ABS also found that 400,000 more households intend to buy a PC before next February, which would take the number of PC-equipped homes to 3.4 million.

So, how many Australians are now PC literate? According to the ABS figures, which were gathered in February this year and released in June, 5.1 million Australians aged five and over were regularly using the PC – up 31 per cent over the previous survey in February 1996.

Looking only at the adult population, the ABS identified 7.5 million Australians who used a computer, either at home, work or at a friend or colleague's home. More than two million people use a PC at home and at work. Entertainment still ranks as the popular use for a PC in Australia – 3 million people admitting to games playing – while education and work-related activities are close behind.

But increasingly PCs are being used to take people online. The most dramatic change identified during the ABS two-year survey interval was the 258 per cent leap in the number of people now using the Internet from home.

More than a million Australians aged five and over regularly log onto the Net from home – in 1996 that figure was just 262,000. The ABS report uncovered 850,000 households (13 per cent) with Net access in February 1998. A further 470,000 households indicated their intent to go online by next February.

For the IT industry these figures point to the Australian market for PCs being well along the technology maturity curve, well past the early adopter phase. White-collar workers are already awash with PCs, and that market is now a replacement, mature entity.

Market research firms are this year pointing to a 10 per cent growth in PC unit shipments, but a possible drop in the actual value of the local PC market, as price pressure continues. The June introduction of Windows 98 is not expected to prompt any great surge in demand, seen as it is an evolutionary development of the operating system rather than the quantum leap of Windows 95 over 3.1.

This points to a period of even more intense competition among the main PC brands as they fight over considerably more elusive market share. It's a hand the industry is increasingly used to playing.

But the wildcard for the industry is the state of the economy and our currency. In June, when Australia was labouring with a 58 US-cent dollar, Packard Bell sent out a notice warning that it would have to actually increase its prices as a result of the currency plunge. Retailers then warned that by September ordinary Australians would start to experience price rises in the PC sector, a previously unheard of phenomenon in a sector synonymous with falling costs.

At the same time economists the world over were starting to whisper the R word, and even the word Depression was used as Asia's economic woes rocked the globe. Discretionary spending, such as that associated with the purchase of a new PC for home, is always the first spending to dry up during tough times. Corporate spending too is likely to slow in the absence of killer applications demanding an upgrade.

The PC industry may be in for one of its toughest periods on record.

■ *bhead@afr.fairfax.com.au*

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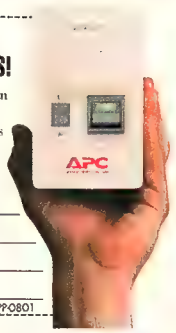

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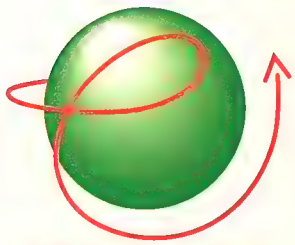

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Outlook

DIFFERENT FLAVOURS OF E-COMMERCE

By Robert Thirlwell

The Internet has managed to spread its influence into the most unlikely places. You can purchase all sorts of things – even cars, vegetables and tartan – from the comfort of home.

The rapid growth of electronic commerce has IDC predicting that by the year 2002 it will be worth $US333 billion worldwide. In 1997 it was a mere $US8 billion, so if the predictions are correct, the rate of growth is phenomenal.

Much of this growth is generated by business-to-business commerce. Enterprises are making use of the communications networks within and outside their walls to establish links to suppliers and customers. The aim is to automate processes that used to require faxed or mailed documents such as order forms and invoices. Hopefully this will save some trees as well. This is not an inexpensive thing to do, so don't expect to see prices drop because of automated processes.

E-commerce comes in different flavours. The most basic form is a Web site constructed to market or sell products and services – with a phone number for placing orders. In the early days of the Web, many businesses set up sites based around the requests of marketing departments. These sites were simple extensions of glossy brochures, complete with product lists and company mission statements. The basic e-commerce Web site is built around the need to have an online marketing presence.

More complex e-commerce is carried out when customers can subscribe to services or place orders by filling in forms. The processing of these forms takes place offline and it usually involves re-entering data. This level of e-commerce is not very sophisticated, but it functions in many cases as a first step towards full automation.

The next level up provides fully automated systems that handle credit card transactions in real-time. The most sophisticated ones also automate stock control with online catalogues and inventory management.

But progress has not been all that smooth. The stumbling blocks to successful widespread adoption of e-commerce are social and technological.

People are concerned about their privacy being compromised. There are no regulations (even self-regulation) that cover the handing over of personal details. Many people enter false names when they have to register themselves online. Web sites need to be encouraged to adopt disclosure practices, so that everyone using the site is clear about what the information will be used for.

Security is another stumbling block. As with other rapidly developing technologies, vendors are caught up in a race to market before standards can be agreed upon and adopted for the benefit of all concerned.

Consumers are being lured towards online shopping, but many still do not trust the Internet enough to reveal their credit card numbers. This is likely to change when consumers see banks and insurance companies roll out Web sites that allow secure transactions. Using a Web site to transfer money between bank accounts is easier for many people than fronting up to a bank's ATM. So it is just a matter of time before a lot of banking will be carried out on the Web. Westpac recently joined the online world as one of the banks to allow customers access to their accounts via everyday Web browsers.

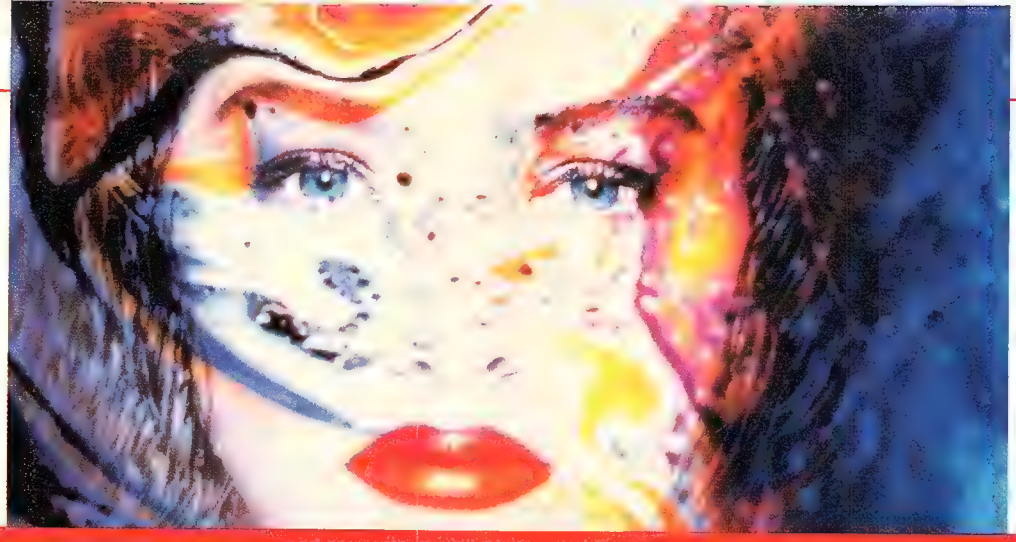
Of the consumers who have made the plunge into e-commerce, the biggest slice of the online cake is in retail sales. According to IDC, retail products account for 64 per cent of purchases, text based transactions such as subscriptions account for 34 per cent. Many people go to the Web to purchase software, with 22 per cent browsing for software and buying online. Intellectual property accounts for 18 per cent of purchases.

Many in the US are trading shares to take advantage of the rising sharemarket. It is estimated that around 11 per cent of Net users are actively trading stocks online. This seems a high figure, but it's not surprising when you think about it – stock market screens were always popular in the pre-Web days of teletext.

Other popular consumer purchases include computers (Dell has been most successful), pornography, movie tickets, books and CDs. One of the biggest growth sectors in retail is travel. Why go to your travel agent's shop when it's cold and raining outside if you can visit a Web site instead? Better still, visit several Web sites and compare prices and packages from competing agencies.

Before too long, we'll be purchasing most things we can buy in a shopping mall without having to drive down the road and battle for an empty spot in the car park. But for certain people I know, who were born to shop, something will be missing – the bustling experience, the fitting rooms, the wall to wall mirrors, the smell of coffee, and the music – where's the music?

■ *Robert_Thirlwell@idg.com.au*



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Silicon Society

VOTE E-TAX FOR INEQUALITY

By Julie Robotham

So tax reform is necessary to eliminate the inequities and discrepancies rampant within the current tax system? Electronic commerce presents a whole new set of difficulties for our taxation legislators that threatens to make the present system look orderly by comparison.

A growing proportion of Australian Net users say they have tried online shopping: only 23 per cent had done so in 1996, compared to 43 per cent this year, according to surveys by researchers www.consult. That's possibly more than a million Australians if you take the total Net community as anything up to three million. And the products and services purchased tend to be of a high value — 70 per cent cost more than $70. www.consult estimates the total value of Australian Internet commerce in 1997 was $37 million and foresees it growing by more than 400 per cent to $150 million this year.

Internet commerce allows individuals to buy direct from the producer, and that presents problems to the Australian Taxation Office. A report into e-commerce by the parliamentary Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit put the problem bluntly.

With e-commerce, it said: "there are fewer taxing points". Retailers and wholesalers have been the ATO's de facto collection agents. Their equivalents rarely exist in virtual shopping malls. The JCPAA report and the ATO in its statements to date on the subject are in firm agreement on one thing: taxes on electronic commerce would have to be consistent internationally to be effective.

But international agreement may prove elusive. First up, the US wants the Internet to be a duty-free zone in order to stimulate electronic commerce. Small wonder, since the US is so far ahead that almost any electronic transaction favours its trade balance; according to researchers Activmedia, 86 per cent of global electronic commerce revenue is earned in the US, while only 1.5 per cent comes from Asia, including Australia.

And while the US ostensibly does not quibble with applying the same taxes to electronic and physical transactions, it has put the rest of the world on notice that it will reject any ideas it regards as unworkable. According to the President's Information Infrastructure Taskforce, the US will only support any proposed tax regime that is simple to administer and collect.

The ATO has canvassed the possibility of Australian Company Numbers on commercial Internet sites, registration for Internet businesses, and regulations for electronic cash. Simple enough? Maybe, maybe not.

The Australian Government has already generally acknowledged the pointlessness of taxing individuals on products imported for their own use. Under the current regime, if the total sales tax and customs duty payable would amount to less than $50, you don't have to pay it — that's goods up to the value of about $200 (the sales tax rate varies according to the nature of the goods). And the JCPAA report advocates raising this so-called "screen-free threshold" to $150 — carte blanche to bring almost any individual purchase up to about $600 into the country, legitimately tax free.

So when you go overseas you can buy a bit of software and a couple of pairs of Levis without having to worry about the tax bill on re-entry into the orbit of Planet Australia. It's been good, clean fun and one of the perks of travel.

However, the rules aren't there to foster recreational shopping, but because it costs too much to collect tax on smaller purchases.

Internet shopping is booming faster than overseas shopping trips though, and the potential revenue shortfall is beginning to worry government. This shortfall would be all the greater if a GST were to replace indirect taxes. Presumably it would be no cheaper to collect and administer a GST than to collect sales tax and duty. So logically a screen-free threshold should also apply to GST on Internet purchases. In that case, a GST — far from being a great leveller — would create greater inequities than ever, as computer users reaped large retail savings not available to the non-wired community.

The JCPAA report gets down to desperate measures in suggesting how the Government might enforce taxation compliance in the brave new world of e-shopping. It even recommends surveillance by Australia Post of packets entering the country. And that is just for physically imported goods. Already, computer software downloaded directly from overseas Web sites is an important part of consumers' electronic trading. That proportion can only grow as music, video and other services become practical to download rather than order on physical media.

So how will the Government know who has purchased what and levy tax on it?

The ATO believes, "it will be impossible to detect or determine Internet activity without some kind of regulation". That might include electronic surveillance of each and every bit of data that comes down the line into your modem, plus restrictions on the use of encryption. The obvious counter-move would be for computer users not to import software, music or video to reside physically on their machines, but instead to use it remotely, while the software itself "resided" in some more tax-friendly country.

It's clear that taxation in the virtual world requires a much more radical rethink. Attempting to round up tax dollars by checking packets — physical or electronic — on their way into Australia is too little too late. It's like locking the stable door while the horse is beaming up from the transporter room.

■ *julie@access.fairfax.com.au*

It is no mean feat to make Australia's most popular printer for home and small offices better than ever. But that's just what we've done with the new BJC™-255SP.

Use 75% less ink. Super Economy mode reduces ink consumption by 75% compared to Standard mode, and works for both black and white and colour. Combined with a high capacity, black ink cartridge, it can print up to 2400 pages in black and white, and up to 600 in colour using standard inks* That's anywhere from two to five times the output of any direct competitor!

Fast B&W plus photo quality printing. Then, there is a choice of high-speed B&W, or three colour print modes – Normal, Fine and Photo. Photo mode emphasises highlights and contrasts, and improves half-tones by producing a richer process black.

Brilliant colour, super economy, optional PhotoRealism, improved Internet printing,

all for just $199.

Optional PhotoRealism.™ To this Canon adds the option of PhotoRealism inks, for photographic reproduction approaching silver halide quality. By layering inks in up to four densities, it produces up to four times the colour combinations of conventional CMY printers, for smoother colour gradations and more accurate colours in skin tones and other light shades.

Better Internet images. Image Optimisation takes low resolution Internet images (typically 72 dpi), and prints them at the highest resolution supported by the printer to reduce jagged edges and pixelisation.

Canon Customer Care. All Canon printers feature a one-year warranty, upgradeable to three years for minimal cost, and are backed by Customer Care hot-line support. Drivers are available for Windows® 3.1x/95 and Windows NT.

For all this, there's one thing we haven't changed, the price. It's still a low, low $199 RRP. For more information call 1 800 021 167.

Photo Realism™

BJC-255SP colour Bubble Jet™ printer – $199RRP

Canon

* Based on 5% page coverage, Super Economy not available with PhotoRealism inks. Price shown is the recommended retail price including tax. Canon and the Canon logo are registered trademarks and BJC, Bubble Jet and PhotoRealism are trademarks of Canon Inc. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corp. in the U.S. and other countries. Canon Australia Pty Ltd ACN 005 002 951

CS/5263

Coffee Break

A JAUNDICED VIEWPOINT

By Reg King

Having entered my fifth decade on earth I never cease to be amazed at the lengths some people will go to be offended. A woman named Julie wrote to my editor complaining about my June article on the Sharp HC-4500. She considered the article an example of "blatant chauvinism".

I was taken aback by this claim. Happily married to the same woman for 34 years with two grown-up daughters (one a lawyer), I am sure any chauvinist tendencies would have been gently massaged out years ago. Then again, I don't believe I ever had any.

First, Julie resented my reference to the "man on the move". I wrote the article in the first person, and although I do admit that parts of me don't work as well as they did 20 years ago, I still consider myself a man on the move. Working in the computer industry doesn't leave you with much choice.

Then there was the line: "So instead of a simple musical score you can have your wife's voice remind you, 'Don't forget our anniversary!' " If anyone could have been offended by this comment – and no offence was meant – it should be the male reader! Many women of my acquaintance have an innate ability to pinpoint dates with incredible accuracy by associating them with other major events. Recently, I could not agree on a date with a friend of mine. I suggested we defer to our wives and sure enough they settled the matter almost immediately. I guess us guys are just not that good on dates! I shudder to think how many important dates I would miss if it wasn't for Lotus Organizer.

More than half the correspondence I receive, the overwhelming majority of which is complimentary, is from women. Only yesterday I received an e-mail from a woman reader asking for further details on the Sharp HC-4500 because she wanted to buy one for her husband. Obviously, she didn't find my article offensive.

More interestingly, however, Julie went on to complain that "modern technology is very male dominated and that even the language of the Internet is very male". According to Julie, the Victorian Minister for Women's Affairs has research that shows the Internet is used less by women than men. I would be very interested in that research, because it doesn't coincide with my personal experience.

The problem with analysing usage of the Internet is that "you wouldn't know if a dog was at the other end". However, if you log onto any of the open chat lines you will find women are very well represented. My most notable e-mail has been from a 76-year-old woman using the Internet to correspond with her friends around the world.

The facility is open to anyone who wants access to it – all you need is a computer, modem and the desire! If the minister's statistics are correct, might she be interpreting choice as discrimination?

Likewise, I consider a general statement that modern technology is male dominated as absurd as it is unsupported.

It seems to me that there is greater benefit to be found in understanding and utilising emerging technology than in trying to label it gender dominated. If I were like Julie, I would probably be offended every time I go to a doctor and am offered a choice of women's magazines to read while I wait. This is the kind of nonsense that has politicians speaking out of the corners of their mouths. There is always someone out there waiting to be offended.

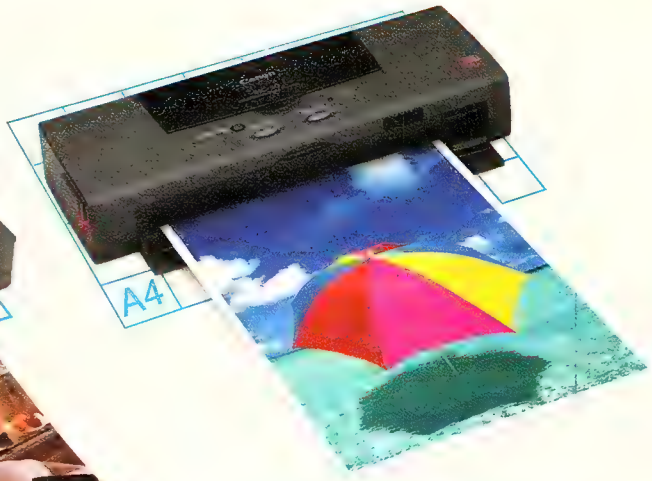
Sorry to disappoint, Julie, but I will not be changing my attitudes or style as a result of your e-mail. Be content at least that you didn't waste a stamp! As to your inference that your views represent all women, I think not – I believe women have a better sense of humour and a more practical view of life than you give them credit for.

I hope that all regular readers of this column get something from its simple and non-technical approach to emerging technology. My opinions may not always be right, but they are always my own.

"Those determined to be offended will seek and eventually find justification."

■ *Reg King can be contacted on (02) 9873 1313, via e-mail at regking@ozemail.com.au, or you can write to 87 Murray Farm Road, Carlingford, NSW 2118*

Canon BJC-80
$399RRP



Canon BJC-50
$699RRP

Advanced colour, cable-less communications, optional scanner plus two sizes that are

Small and smaller!

Canon has a wonderfully new idea for people that need a portable printer. A choice.

On the small side there is the BJC™-80. It is a fraction of the size of a briefcase. Yet, with its in-built sheet feeder and power adaptor included as standard, it is designed for people who have to produce high volume output from a very small printer.

Drop Modulation Technology.

Conversely, if size is critical, there is the brand new BJC-50 with in-built battery. It's not just small, at approximately half the size of the BJC-80 it's absolutely tiny.

Equally impressive, their performance is as big as their size is small.

Using Canon's advanced Drop Modulation Technology™ you can print everything from colour charts, to high quality photographs. Or, in seconds you can convert to extra high-speed black and white for finished business documents using the dedicated black cartridge with 128 print nozzles!

The BJC-80 fits in approximately half the space of a briefcase. The BJC-50 is approaching 50% smaller still.

Optional colour scanner.

For greater portability, both models include an infra-red port for totally cable-less communications with any suitably equipped Windows® 95 notebook or PC.

And, if you really need the functionality of an office in the space of a briefcase, both models will accept an optional colour scanner head in place of the print head. It takes only seconds to change the heads. You can then use the scanner head to acquire colour images, or for fax and OCR functions.*

Cable-less communication.

Canon Customer Care. All Canon printers feature a one-year warranty, upgradeable to three years for minimal cost, and are backed by Customer Care hot-line support. Drivers are available for DOS, Windows 3.1x/95 and Windows NT.

If you need help choosing between small, and smaller, give us a call on 1 800 021 167.

Canon portable colour Bubble Jet™ printers

Canon

*Scanner-head works with Windows 95 only. Fax and OCR software not included with purchase. Canon and the Canon logo are registered trademarks and Drop Modulation Technology, Bubble Jet and BJC are trademarks of Canon Inc. Windows 95 is a trademark of Microsoft Corp. in the U.S. and other countries. Canon Australia Pty Ltd ACN 005 002 951. Prices shown are recommended retail prices including tax.

CS/5420

Top of the News

PC VENDORS CAUTION WIN 98 UPGRADE

By Molly Furzer and Brian McWilliams

If you're considering the Windows 98 upgrade, be cautious say some PC vendors in the US – new drivers, system files or BIOSes may be required to fix problems associated with upgrading certain hardware.

Shortly after the Windows 98 launch in June, PC vendors in the US such as Dell Computer, Gateway and Toshiba were warning some of their customers to postpone upgrading operating systems until they issued updated system files and in some cases BIOSes. Compaq in the US has already updated its Web site with patches and workarounds.

Compaq's US Web site identifies several problems which have been found associated with upgrading Compaq hardware to Windows 98. Presarios, for example, may have no support for CD-ROM in DOS mode and Dial Up Networking may be affected (users may not be able to dial out to an ISP for example, after upgrading). Workarounds for these problems and others are provided at www.compaq.com/athome/win98/

Rob Balmer, business manager for the consumer division at Compaq Australia, said the known technical problems outlined on the US Web site are not necessarily Compaq Presario or even Compaq-specific problems: "They are typically the way a PC would react to the Windows 98 upgrade," he said.

Compaq Australia has not yet received any tech support inquiries regarding Windows 98 upgrade problems, Balmer said, but suggests if users have problems, to contact Compaq. Customers who purchased their Windows 98 upgrade through Compaq and received a Compaq service CD, which is designed to optimise Windows 98 for Presario products, shouldn't have a problem with upgrading, Balmer said. For those customers who bought a normal Windows 98 upgrade, some "minor changes" to drivers may be required and downloads are available at Compaq's Australian Web site (www.compaq.com.au).

Dell worldwide is advising owners of some of its newer Latitude notebooks not to install Windows 98 until it releases a new set of system drivers and a BIOS update in mid-August. The company has also provided a comprehensive guide to upgrading its products to Windows 98 (http://support.dell.com/filelib/98upgrade.asp), which advises whether a system should be upgraded or not.

Officials from Gateway were not able to comment at press time about upgrading older PCs, but did say there have been no problems identified with new Gateway PCs running Windows 98. Hewlett-Packard also declined to comment specifically, only saying at press time no patches or system files were being offered locally in regards to the Windows 98 upgrade.

IBM and Toshiba could not be contacted at press time.

Despite problems already identified by vendors, Windows 98 tech support calls to Microsoft are significantly lower in proportion to those after the Windows 95 release.

"The calls we're getting are in the order of one fifth the number of incidences we were getting for Windows 95 for the same number of product," said Tony Wilkinson, Windows product manager at Microsoft Australia. "The upgrade process to Windows 98 is a very simple upgrade," he added.

"Sometimes problems relate to BIOS issues with individual machines and when that's the case, obviously the manufacturers have a role in fixing those," he said.

SOUNDBYTE

"The OfficeJet is extremely economical in terms of space usage."
– Brett Marcombe of Hewlett-Packard trying to avoid the negative connotations of the word "small"

Brilliant colour, PhotoRealism and an extra large print head for

faster blacks.

When it comes to versatility, the BJC™-4200 is ahead of its class.

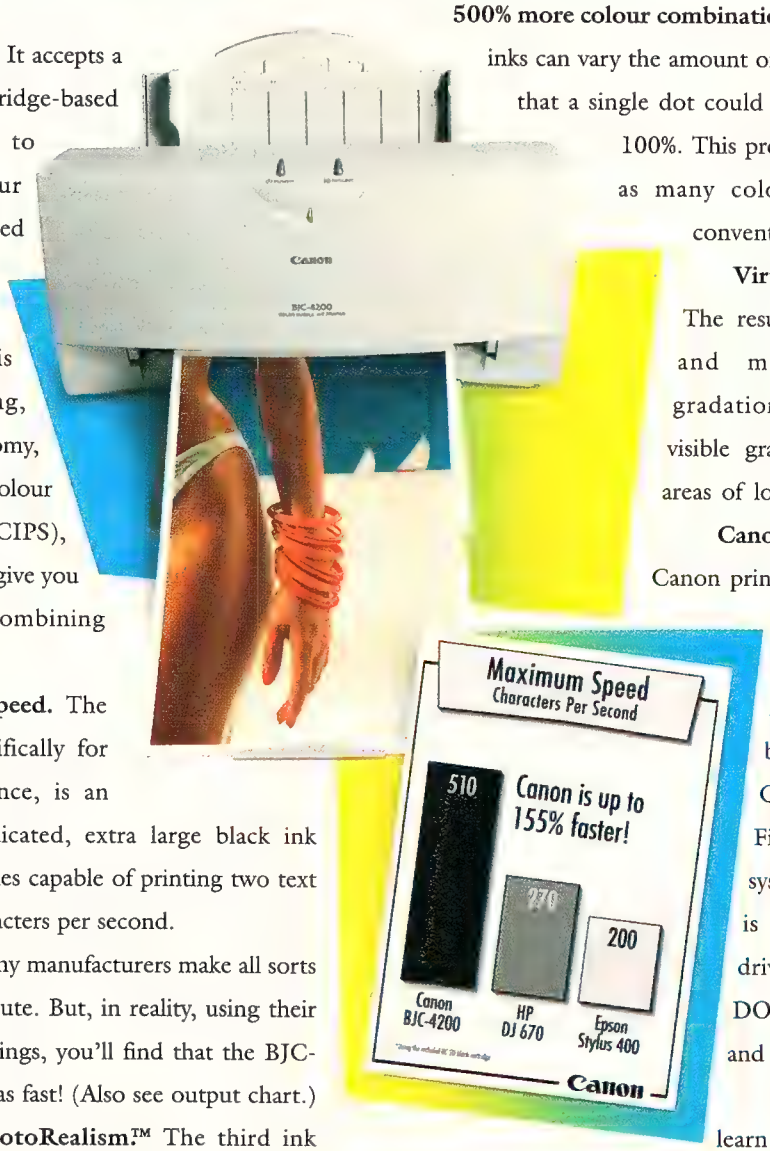
Four printing systems. It accepts a choice of four different cartridge-based printing systems, designed to tailor your output to your printing needs. Two are included in the box as standard.

Photo quality CMYK. The first standard system is four-colour process printing, with driver settings for Economy, Text and Photo. The Canon Colour Image Processing System (CCIPS), and resolution up to 720 dpi, give you outstanding half-tones by combining pure and process blacks.

Blacks at twice the speed. The other standard system, specifically for black & white correspondence, is an unusual feature. It is a dedicated, extra large black ink cartridge with 128 print nozzles capable of printing two text lines at speeds up to 510 characters per second.

Don't be confused. Many manufacturers make all sorts of claims about pages per minute. But, in reality, using their own characters per second ratings, you'll find that the BJC-4200 can be more than twice as fast! (Also see output chart.)

Canon's exclusive PhotoRealism.™ The third ink system uses Canon's exclusive PhotoRealism inks. This option is more than just a claim, it is fast becoming the photo quality printing gold standard.



500% more colour combinations. Special low-density inks can vary the amount of saturation per pixel so that a single dot could have 0%, 33%, 67% or 100%. This produces up to five times as many colour combinations as conventional CMYK inks.

Virtually no pixelisation. The result is better half-tones and more subtle colour gradations, with almost no visible grain and dots, even in areas of low colour density.

Canon Customer Care. All Canon printers feature a one-year warranty, upgradeable to three years for minimal cost, and are backed by Customer Care hot-line support. Finally, our fourth ink system, Fluorescent ink, is also an option, and drivers are available for DOS, Windows® 3.1x/95 and Windows NT.

If you would like to learn more about tailoring the highly versatile BJC-4200 to your printing needs, in colour and B&W, call us on 1 800 021 167.

Photo Realism™

BJC-4200 colour Bubble Jet™ printer – $299RRP

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CS/5328

COMPAQ TO SHED UP TO 400 STAFF

NEW COMPAQ MD OUTLINES PLANS

By Molly Furzer, Ellen Cresswell and Laura Mason

The "new" Compaq Computer Australia has announced its "new" managing director – Ian Penman – who has been managing director of the old Compaq Computer Australia for 14 years.

At a press conference in Sydney Penman has outlined plans for the integration of Compaq and Digital in Australia, announcing up to 400 redundancies will be made across all areas of the company by September.

At press time, a senior management team was expected to be announced in mid-July, which Penman said would be involved in the culling process along with 20 to 25 sub-teams.

"The cost structure in Digital today won't sustain the company going forward," he said. "There's no doubt that unless we can produce the same solution at a lower cost then we will lose out to our competitors.

"We want to get the cost structure down to where the acceptable operating profit is, given our expense structure, our deteriorating margins structure, our revenue growth, the forecasts and the exchange rate impact."

The new Compaq will reap the rewards of its build-to-order model and emphasise a customer relationship model such as Dell's, which is what customers want according to Penman. The Compaq reseller channel will stay and grow through e-commerce, but larger companies who want to deal with Compaq directly will be able to do so.

Also to be consolidated are Compaq's manufacturing plants in Australia and around the world. The Australian Digital assembly centre will be folded into the Compaq configuration centre and 20 to 30 people will lose their jobs as a result.

Ian Penman to head the new Compaq Computer Australia

Compaq operations worldwide are affected by the consolidations, which will result in a reduction of approximately 5000 employees globally.

ANTIVIRUS MARKET KEEPS HEADS SPINNING

By Peter Young and Molly Furzer

The antivirus marketplace is in a spin after IBM's withdrawal from the market and Network Associates' announcement of its planned $1.1 billion purchase of the Dr Solomon's Group.

Symantec has taken over IBM's antivirus technology, the brand of which will cease to exist. As a result, new versions of Norton AntiVirus will be released for OS/2 and the AS400 platforms.

Symantec has taken IBM's existing antivirus customer and OEM contracts and is recommending Norton Antivirus. A slew of other antivirus software vendors have stepped forward to rescue "stranded" IBM antivirus customers, offering upgrades with free licences: ThunderByte, Network Associates, Dr Solomon's and Sophos.

ThunderByte is offering a free upgrade of its AntiViral Toolkit Pro product to corporates, government and educational institutions using IBM, Symantec, Network Associates or Dr Solomon's products, until the end of the year. "We don't like to see them pushed into something they didn't buy in the first place," said Rod Fewster of ThunderByte Australia.

Keeping the market even more confused, Dr Solomon's antivirus technology will be merged into Network Associates' product line within a year as a result of the acquisition.

"At the moment, we have two scan engines and two sets of virus signature files. We will create one central file which all the products will feed off and logically we will integrate the best pieces of the two technologies," said Paul Slattery, Network Associates' country manager for Australia and New Zealand.

The Dr Solomon's purchase will place Network Associates as the leading global vendor of antivirus products. But the network management and security tools vendor, which absorbed McAfee Associates last year, is still looking to snap up more competitors and further drain the market.

Among its targets is a leading Australian rival, Cybec. Roger Riordan, Cybec's founder, said Network Associates offered late last year to buy his company, whose VET product has approximately the same Australian market share as McAfee's Virus Scan. (In the retail space, both are eclipsed by Symantec.)

"We told them we are wholly Australian owned and that we intend to stay that way," Riordan said.

However, a Network Associates official claimed only a phone call "exploring possibilities" took place.

In terms of infrastructure, Network Associates and Dr Solomon's appear to be well positioned for a merger in Australia with minimal job-shedding. Network Associates is headquartered in Sydney and has an Australian headcount of 23 while Dr Solomon's has a Melbourne head office and 10 to 15 staffers.

In Australia, Symantec leads in the retail arena, while McAfee commonly is viewed as running neck and neck with Cybec's VET, with Dr Solomon's trailing some distance behind.

A2

A3

When it comes to superior paper handling, the BJC™-5500 has no rivals.

More paper feeds. It comes with a tractor feed to accept continuous form (computer paper), and a manual feed for cut sheets up to A2, or envelopes. To this you can add two optional cut-sheet feeds so, for instance, you could have letterhead and standard paper feeds at the same time.

To do more jobs. Obviously the BJC-5500 has the paper handling for almost every one in the office from accountant to artist, and engineer to receptionist. Its appeal is further broadened by the fact that the BJC-5500 is also an exceptional four-colour CMYK printer capable of producing text and graphic lines in resolutions up to 720 dpi.

The Canon BJC-5500 can do something that no other printer can,

print more paper types.

A4

Envelopes

Overheads

Computer

At higher speeds. Whether it's a long spreadsheet, or a batch of form letters, the BJC-5500 delivers. Using the special black cartridge, the BJC-5500 prints close to 7 B&W pages per minute in high speed. It even offers an ultra efficient Economy Mode that reduces ink consumption by 67% vs. High Quality mode.

Canon Customer Care. Like all Canon printers it features a one-year warranty, upgradeable to three years, and is backed by Customer Care hot-line support. Both colour and B&W cartridges are included as standard. Drivers are available for DOS, Windows® 3.1x/95 and Windows NT.

To find out more about Canon's exceptional paper handling capabilities, call us on 1800 021 167.

BJC-5500 colour Bubble Jet™ printer – $1499RRP

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FAIR TRADING INQUIRY INTO NSW PC INDUSTRY

By Gerard Norsa and Molly Furzer

The Fair Trading Advisory Council (FTAC) has launched an inquiry into the NSW PC supply industry following an "alarming" increase in consumer complaints.

"Fly-by-night" and so-called "Phoenix" computer suppliers – businesses which appear, disappear (leaving customers out of pocket) and reappear under a different name – are of particular interest to the inquiry. A range of other issues are under the spotlight including: trader demands for large deposits, faulty goods and failure to provide service, long delays in delivery of goods and non-delivery of computer goods.

The Department of Fair Trading has highlighted a recent case, which involved CNN Promotions, a suspiciously cheap computer company, which went into liquidation just six weeks after it began trading.

A spokesperson for the fair trading watchdog said CNN had been under watch following a rash of advertisements spread all over NSW, offered "very cheap computer and accessory packages through the media".

Advertisements showed promotions offering a free upgrade to Pentium II, 12 months after purchasing a system – a sales incentive that would have generated significant interest.

Reputable PC dealers have nothing to be concerned about said Jeff Shaw, NSW Fair Trading Minister, "I believe they will welcome this opportunity to have the activities of those who bring their industry into dispute exposed".

Consumer complaints and information relevant to the inquiry may be called-in to the inquiry hotline, 1800 802 055.

LOCAL SUPPORT LOST

Customers of the Newcastle branch of reseller Peripherals Plus, have been left without local support following the sudden closure of the store. Newcastle's Peripherals Plus shut up shop in late June, giving no warning of closure to its sole employee or customers.

According to a reader of PC World, goods were sold up until the closure of the shop on Friday 19 June, and "no indication at all was given to those customers".

"On Saturday they reported that the branch was closed due to a sick staff member. Even a staff member on holidays had not been advised until Monday."

Management at Peripherals Plus' remaining office in Sydney stated the closure of the store was due to an expiring lease it had maintained for four and a half years.

The phone has been disconnected and a note on the door now directs enquiries to the Sydney office, advising that all warranty and support issues will be handled from there.

According to Kerry Cassel, marketing manager for the company, all the stock has been moved to Sydney and there are no plans to open another office in Newcastle. She said the shopping village where the office was situated is now an enclave of medical businesses and that passing trade had suffered as a result. "It wasn't a very busy office, everything mainly came through Sydney including all tech support and sales calls."

TELSTRA'S COMPETITION NOTICE REVOKED

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has revoked the competition notice it issued to Telstra in May after the communications giant reached peering agreements with competitors Optus and connect.com.

As reported in the July issue of PC World, the ACCC issued a competition notice against Telstra alleging anti-competitive behaviour in the Internet access market, charging its IAP competitors for services whilst not paying for reciprocal services.

The intention behind the notice was to force Telstra into arranging peering agreements with Optus and connect.com to rectify the situation (OzEmail had signed an agreement with Telstra a week prior).

Rod Shogren, a commissioner with the ACCC believes the notice was successful: "By forcing Telstra to sign reciprocal agreements with competing IAPs, the ACCC has opened the Internet industry to even greater competition."

The ACCC is still concerned about the ability of smaller IAPs to reach agreements with Telstra and other backbone competitors and will continue to watch the situation eagerly.

The revocation was welcomed by Telstra, which had requested the competition notice be revoked, claiming the notice was invalid and the company had not breached the law. Telstra has since withdrawn plans for court action against the ACCC regarding the notice.

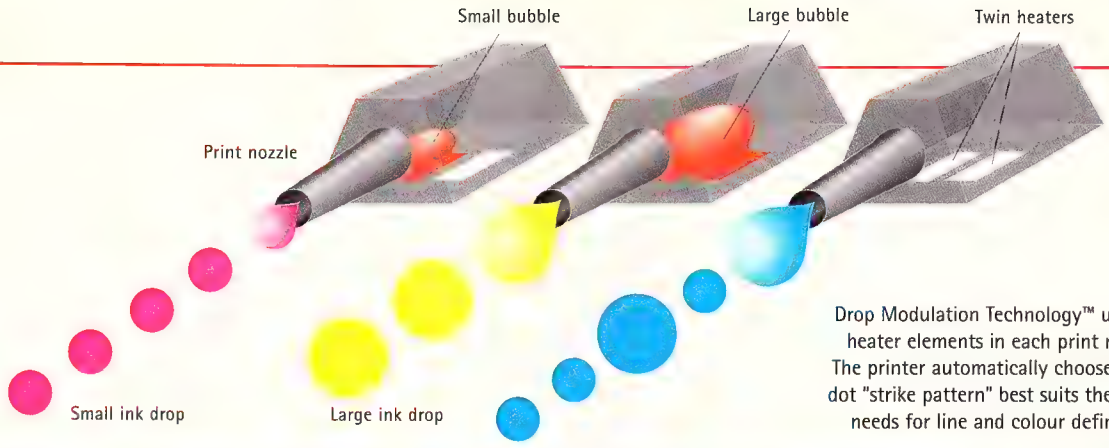
PENTAGON TO SHARE DATA WITH NUCLEAR POWERS

In an effort to avoid a potential Y2K-related accidental nuclear exchange, the Pentagon has plans to share data with the world's other nuclear powers.

Under the plans, information about nuclear early-warning systems and missile warnings will be exchanged with Russia and other nuclear nations and a year 2000 cooperative program will be set up to ensure the nuclear command and control centres function properly after 2000.

Despite these plans, the Pentagon does not believe the millennium bug will cause an accidental nuclear exchange, the US deputy secretary of Defense, John Hamre has said.

- Bob Brewin and Heather Harreld



Drop Modulation Technology™ uses two heater elements in each print nozzle. The printer automatically chooses which dot "strike pattern" best suits the image's needs for line and colour definition.

Big and little ink drops reduce speckles and smooth colour gradations using Canon's

Drop Modulation Technology.

Common colour printer technology uses four inks (cyan, magenta, yellow and black), produced in a single drop size.

These inks are mixed to create eight possible colours in a single address position, called a pixel. Then, to give the impression of more colours, the printer puts different colours in adjoining pixels. At a distance, this can look pretty colourful, especially at high resolution.

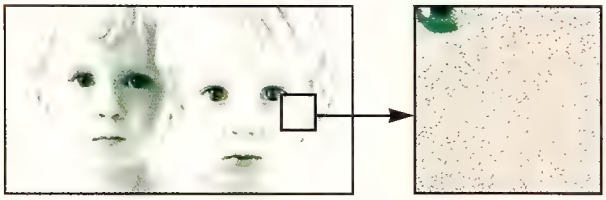


Diagram 1. Standard CMYK inks with a single drop size can produce only 8 colour combinations. This can result in pixelisation as represented right.

But there are problems in all of this.

High resolution slows the print process. And no matter how many pixels you have in a square inch, there is a limit to how subtly the tones can graduate. As a result, photographs often show something called "pixelisation", which is technical talk for "little speckles" (see diagram 1).

So Canon developed Drop Modulation Technology, which is now available on several colour Bubble Jet™ printers using either standard and/or PhotoRealism™ inks*.

It uses two different ink drop sizes, large and small, that can be combined in any of five different "strike patterns", within a single pixel. As diagram 2 shows, this has the effect of producing a wider variety of colour combinations within the pixel itself. Then, because the effect is an automatic function of the printer driver, it is not dependent on super high resolution.

The non-technical way to put this is that big and little drops help produce smoother lines and better colour gradations, plus less of something you don't want to see at all – speckles. And, allowing for the complexities of colour in the first place, it all happens with reasonable speed.

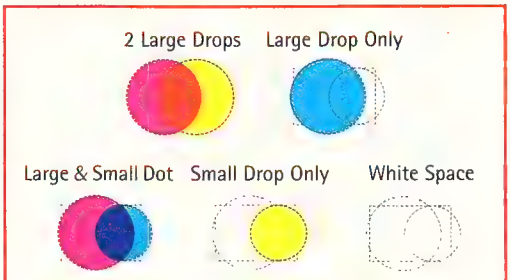


Diagram 2. Drop Modulation Technology uses two different drop sizes that can be printed in 5 different "strike" patterns to produce smoother colour gradations, even within a single pixel.

Canon Customer Care. All Canon printers feature a one-year warranty, upgradeable to three years, and are backed by Customer Care hot-line support. To learn more about the models offering Drop Modulation Technology, call us on 1 800 021 167.

Drop Modulation Technology is available with the BJC™-50, BJC-80, BJC-4300 & BJC-4650

Canon

* Not all PhotoRealism capable printers offer Drop Modulation Technology. Contact Canon or your re-seller for details. Canon and the Canon logo are registered trademarks and, BJC, Bubble Jet, PhotoRealism and Drop Modulation Technology are trademarks of Canon Inc. Canon Australia Pty Ltd ACN 005 002 951 CS/5331

SMALL BUSINESS TARGET OF Y2K PROGRAM

By Molly Furzer

Graeme Inchley, CEO of the Year 2K Industry

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the target of a new year 2000 awareness program being sponsored by the Commonwealth Government in an effort to spur action against the millennium bug.

According to research by the Australian Bankers Association (ABA), only 25 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses have taken action to address the Y2K problem and only 20 per cent believe it will pose a serious problem for them. The year2k Industry Program is seeking to raise awareness and provide information about the millennium bug on a national level.

Graeme Inchley, CEO of the year2k Industry Program, said many businesses have misconceptions about the issue or are ignorant of its implications to business.

"The biggest misconception is 'It's a big business problem' – tell that to the distribution company that's only got seven people and that would die if their distribution system failed," Inchley said.

While it's hard to believe businesses will go under as a result of the millennium bug, Inchley warns of dire consequences should businesses not adequately prepare for the big day. A Gartner Group report claims 10 per cent of businesses will fail due to inadequate preparation for the year 2000 – a figure which Inchley says if applied only to the SME market, would see the loss of an estimated 359,000 jobs and $12.5 billion worth of Gross Domestic Product.

"What we need in Australia is for every individual especially those in businesses to accept that this a problem and take a personal responsibility for dealing with it. Every business must deal with this problem – that is the agenda of this program," Inchley told PC World.

The year2k Industry Program has opened a national hotline (1800 11 2000) to provide information on the millennium bug and industry contacts on the issue.

INTERNET REVENUE TO BOOM

IT research company IDC has released a report finding Internet commerce revenues in Australia will increase to over $16 billion in 2002, up from $127.3 million last year.

The report, *Internet Commerce and Usage in Australia, 1997–2002*, also predicts e-commerce users will increase from 12.6 per cent in 1997, to 40.2 per cent by the end of 2002. IDC projects transaction sizes will dramatically increase, with business to business Internet transactions being the main players.

BEAM WINS $2.1M GRANT

Beam International, the Australian multimedia development company based in Melbourne, has scored a $2.1 million grant for proposed research into three-dimensional computer-based animation.

The Industry, Research & Development Board made the grant under the R&D (Large Grant) Start Program, and it will be delivered over 18 months. Beam's project, "The Complete Virtual Studio", will cost $4.2 million in research.

SYMANTEC BUYS NZ'S GHOST FOR $US27.5M

Symantec has paid $US27.5 million for the assets of Auckland-based company Binary Research, developer of the wildly successful Ghost software.

Ghost (see First Looks, February PC World) is a disk cloning technology, which allows for the roll-out of upgrades and standardised PC operating systems and applications across networks – cutting installation times down to a few minutes per PC. More than 3.5 million seats have been installed and 55 per cent of the Fortune 500 use the software.

Symantec plans to incorporate the program into its Norton product line during the third quarter. Murray Haszard, president of Binary Research and developer of Ghost, will head Symantec's Ghost business and his company's Auckland office will continue as a development site.

"There is exciting synergy at work here and the ability of Symantec to more broadly market the product means that significantly more corporations and customers will benefit from Ghost's technology," Haszard said in a statement. ■

Murray Haszard, developer of Ghost

Only Canon offers a way to acquire and print images in colour with a

printer and scanner in one!

Canon has a unique solution to a question that has often plagued colour printer users. How do you get the image in, so you can output it to your Canon colour Bubble Jet™ printer?

Only from Canon. It is an optional scanner head that fits right into your printer, and it is available on several models for just $149.[RRP]

It takes only seconds to replace the print head with the scanner head. This then allows you to acquire images for storage, editing, manipulation, placement on the Internet, or even OCR and faxing, with the right software.

Easy to use. To get you started, Canon includes image acquisition and editing software with your scanner head purchase at no extra cost! And using it, you can scan full colour or 256 grey-scale images in resolution up to 360 dpi. Or you can use high-speed mode if you simply want Black and White at 90 dpi, supported by most fax software.

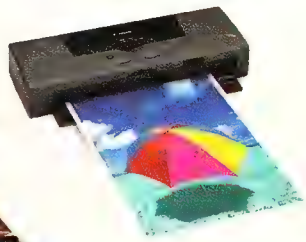
Best of all, Canon offers a full range of models with this remarkable functionality. They are the BJC™-50 and BJC-80 portable printers, the BJC-4300 and BJC-4650!

Canon Customer Care. All Canon printers feature a one-year warranty, upgradeable to three years for minimal cost, and are backed by Customer Care hot-line support. Printer drivers are available for DOS, Windows® 3.1x/95 and Windows NT.

If you would like to learn more about how to get your printer to input as well as output, call us on 1 800 021 167.

The BJC-4300 with PhotoRealism.

The portable BJC-80.



The even smaller, portable BJC-50.

The BJC-4650 for Windows and Macintosh and sizes to A3.*

Optional scanhead – just $149[RRP]

Canon

* Available approximately August. Price shown is the recommended retail price including tax. 1. Compatible with Windows 95 only. Canon and the Canon logo are registered trademarks and Bubble Jet and BJC are trademarks of Canon Inc. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corp. in the U.S. and other countries. Canon Australia Pty Ltd ACN 005 002 951 CS/5332

Product Watch

Hardware

DIE HARD, WITH YOUR NOTEBOOK

If you see yourself as a bit of a James Bond character, always roughing it, then when it comes to your notebook, extra strength is what you need.

Well does Dolch have the solution for you! It has released a range of portable computers that, aside from performing like your regular Pentium notebooks, have a variety of "special" features that are, well, out of the ordinary.

First up is the NotePAC II (pictured), a shock-, drop- and splash-proof notebook that features a 233MHz Pentium MMX processor, and has been created to endure the most extreme locations. Surrounded by rugged magnesium casing, this all-metal weatherproof notebook boasts a sealed 87-key notebook and two PCMCIA Type-II slots.

Dolch says the NotePAC II can accept power from either AC or DC sources and has provisions for three batteries that may be hot-swapped with the main to avoid interruption.

Also available is the FieldPAC rugged attache portable computer, developed for use in field and portable applications. Surrounded by a corrosion-proof, deep-drawn aluminium shell, this notebook, Dolch says, will endure constant transportation in the most unusual conditions.

Among the FieldPAC's key features are a removable keyboard, a full-size ISA/PCI slot and a 14.1in XGA TFT display. Power concerns are addressed too, as the FieldPAC will accept power from any 90 to 265 VAC 50–60Hz source or a 12 VDC cigarette lighter.

Finally, the DuraPAC is a completely sealed (it's dust-, drip- and rain-proof), industrial notebook computer created for use in "extremely harsh conditions". In other words, this is as tough as they get.

Other features incorporated in the DuraPAC include a flak-jacket exoskin, sunlight readable display, ultra-rugged caseworks and PC104 or ISA expansion capabilities.

The three notebooks mentioned boast a swag of "regular" notebook features plus a bevy of other special features developed for use in extreme conditions. Pricing may be obtained by contacting one of the distributors listed below.

Guardian Data
Phone: (02) 9417 6144
Active Automation
Phone: (03) 9888 6450
Testcom Data
Phone: (02) 9630 7528
www.dolch.com

Bruce Willis, this baby's for you . . . Dolch's NotePAC II has been developed for use in "extreme" locations

With resolution up to 8000 dpi, superior lighting and 30-bit colour Canon offers

better colour definition.

Like everything else in this world, there can be a quality difference between a no-name brand and a premium one. Then, as you might expect, when it comes to imaging, CanoScan™ scanners are that little bit better.

Superior lighting and colour depth. Canon understands that better colour starts with better light. So both CanoScan models use a unique Xenon lamp. It more closely resembles sunlight for even illumination and more natural light.

Taking this a step further, Canon has discarded the 24-bit colour input standard. Instead, we scan up to 30 colour bits per pixel, to read as many as one billion colours! Doing this we keep only the best information in each pixel when it comes time for output.

Extraordinary definition. We couple this exceptional colour definition with optical (true) resolution up to 1200 dpi, up to double the level of many direct competitors. This high optical level can then be enhanced up to 2400 dpi, and interpolated all the way to 8000 dpi!

High speed SCSI-II data transfer. Finally, because thirty bits per pixel, and 1200 pixels per inch leads to a lot of data, Canon makes file transfer easier. Both models include a high-speed SCSI-II interface card & cable, and a TWAIN driver as standard – plus both image editing and OCR software to help get you started.

Model	CanoScan 300	CanoScan 600
Interpolated Resolution	Maximum: 4800 dpi	Maximum: 8000 dpi
Optical Resolution	600 x 300 dpi	1200 x 600 dpi
Enhanced Resolution	1200 x 1200 dpi	2400 x 2400 dpi
Colour Input	27-bit (9-bits per colour)	30-bit(10-bits per colour)
RRP	$439	$799

CanoScan scanners are more than a premium brand name, they are premium products, at affordable prices. But what else would you expect from Canon. To learn more call 1 800 021 167.

PhotoRealism™

CanoScan colour scanners – from $439RRP

Canon

Prices shown are recommended retail prices including tax. Interpolation dependent on driver and software used. Canon and the Canon logo are registered trademarks and PhotoRealism and CanoScan are trademarks of Canon Inc. Canon Australia Pty Ltd ACN 005 002 951

CS/5333

VIPER – A GRAPHICS ACCELERATOR WITH A STING

Diamond Multimedia has announced it has reduced the price of its 2D/3D/MPEG graphics accelerator, the Viper V330.

The new estimated retail price for the 128-bit subsystem is $349. According to Diamond Multimedia, the Viper V330 is powered by a RIVA 128 3D processor, and boasts 4MB of 100MHz SGRAM and a 230MHz RAMDAC. Drivers are available for both Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0. The Viper V330, says Diamond Multimedia, ships with support for NTSC TV-out, and is bundled with a variety of games and business applications.

Meanwhile, Diamond Multimedia has also announced that faster Windows 95 drivers for both PCI and AGP Viper V330 configurations are available to download at www.diamondmm.com/products/drivers/viperv330.html.

Paul Corning, Diamond Multimedia country manager, said the new Windows 95 drivers provide a significant increase in performance and ICD OpenGL support for acceleration of games like Quake II and professional applications such as 3D StudioMAX II.

Diamond Multimedia
Phone: (02) 9460 2355
www.diamondmm.com

TIME TO GO SOLO

Gateway has debuted a new notebook model, the Gateway Solo 2500, a high-performance notebook focusing on multimedia capabilities.

A boon for travelling notebook users is the Solo 2500's three-spindle design that incorporates the hard drive, floppy drive and CD-ROM drive, which eliminates the need to swap between these drives.

Three standard configurations of the Gateway Solo 2500 are available: the Solo 2500SE ($2999 RRP), which features a 200MHz Pentium processor with MMX, 16MB SDRAM, a 12.1in display, 20x CD-ROM, and 2GB hard drive; the Solo 2500SL ($3999 RRP), which features a 233MHz Pentium processor with MMX, 32MB SDRAM, a 12.1in display, a 20x CD-ROM, and a 2GB hard drive; and the Solo 2500XL ($4999 RRP), which features a 266MHz Pentium processor, 32MB SDRAM, a 13.1in TFT display, a 20x CD-ROM, 56Kbps modem, and a 3GB hard drive. All notebooks come preloaded with Windows 95 and a carry case, while the SOLO 2500SL AND 2500XL also boast Office 97 SBE. Gateway says users can also configure models to their own specifications.

The Solo 2500, one notebook of Gateway's latest series

Gateway
Phone: 1800 500 337
www.gw2k.com.au

DOORWAY TO THE WEB

Compaq has announced the ProLiant Web Servers, a new family of preconfigured Internet solutions designed for businesses that require a way to develop and host a Web presence, while maintaining a low cost of ownership.

The new offerings are based upon Compaq hardware and Internet software products from Microsoft that include NT Server 4.0, Internet Information Server 4.0 and Site Server 3.0.

Steve Lambley, Compaq's Internet solutions manager, said: "The Compaq ProLiant Web Servers enable our customers to easily and simply implement Web applications, and tap into all the possibilities that the Internet has to offer."

A range of solutions are available starting from lower-end options that include the ProLiant 1200 Web Server for small to medium-sized business (recommended retail price is $9690), and the ProLiant 1600 Web Server for medium-sized businesses with multiple workgroups (recommended retail price is $13,250).

For corporates deploying business-critical applications there is the ProLiant 3000 Web Server (recommended retail price is $31,195); and – at the high end – the ProLiant 5500 Web Server, an enterprise-class solution (recommended retail price is $38,995), is available. A rack-mountable server created for use by ISPs or larger organisations is also available for a recommended retail price of $11,140.

Compaq
Phone: (02) 9911 1999
www.compaq.com.au

INTO THE ETHER

New from networking hardware vendor D-Link Australia is the DE-660CT Ethernet PC Card, a product developed to facilitate the simultaneous transmission (both send and receive) of data at 20Mbps from a notebook.

For a recommended retail price of $118 users can purchase the multi-function adapter that features support for hot-swap, drivers that automatically assign I/O and IRQ addresses and easy network set-up that enables users to connect at any time without needing to reconfigure settings.

A new Ethernet PC Card from D-Link, the DE-660CT

DEATH OF THE DESKTOP!!

Pentium II 266MHz
FREE DVD ROM

(For orders placed before August 31st)

Voyage Elite

- Intel Pentium II 266MHz
- 14.1" TFT Screen
- 64MB SDRAM
- 4.0GB HDD
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- Built-in Microphone & Speakers
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- 56K Data/Fax Modem
- Carry Case
- 12 months on-site Warranty

$5,999

Voyage PowerNote

- Intel Pentium 233MHz MMX
- 12.1" TFT Screen
- 4.0GB HDD
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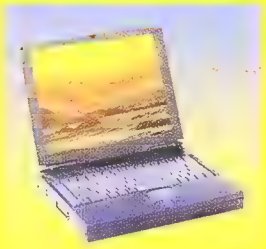
- 24x CD ROM
- 4MB Video RAM
- Li-Ion Battery
- Windows 98
- 12 months on-site warranty

FREE upgrade to a **13.3" TFT** On all orders before August 31st

$3,999

ORAGON T1



- AMD K6 300MHz with MMX
- 12.1" TFT Screen
- 3.0GB HDD
- 32MB RAM
- 24x CD ROM
- 2 MB Video RAM
- Li-Ion Battery
- Windows 98
- 12 months on-site pick-up warranty

PC WORLD TOP 10

$4,299

MITAC 5033

- Intel Pentium 233MHz MMX
- 12.1" TFT Screen
- 3.0GB HDD
- 32MB RAM
- 24x CD ROM
- 2MB Video RAM
- Li-Ion Battery
- Windows 98
- 12 months on-site warranty

MMX intel inside pentium

$3,999

TECO "NEW"

- Intel Pentium 233/266MHz
- 12.1" DSTN/TFT, 13.3" TFT XGA
- Up to 5.0GB HDD
- Up to 128MB RAM
- 24x CD ROM
- 2MB Video RAM
- NiMh / Li-Ion Battery
- Windows 98
- 12 months RTB warranty

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Other configurations available
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FREEFAX: 1800 660099 (24 hrs)
email: cmc@adam.com.au
Mon-Sun 8am-8pm, 7 days a week.

D-Link Australia says the DE-660CT carries a lifetime warranty and additionally boasts the facility to automatically detect the presence of connected media, automatically correct reverse polarity, directly operate NE2000 drivers and perform menu-driven installation.

The DE-660CT is compatible with Novell, MS, IBM, Sun and Banyan LAN drivers and is available now.

D-Link
Phone: 1800 177 100
www.dlink.com

CANONS AND LASERS

Sounding a little like an army's arsenal, the new Canon LBP-2460 is a network laser printer designed by Canon to meet the demands of large departmental workgroups.

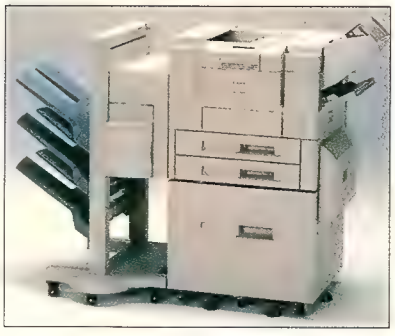
Canon says the LBP-2460 delivers high-quality printouts at 24ppm at 600 x 600dpi. These resolutions are enhanced to 1200dpi when utilising the Canon Automatic Image Refinement technology.

According to Canon, the LBP-2460 can handle a wide variety of media including envelopes, transparencies, paper up to A3 in size, labels and recycled paper.

Other features include 100-sheet output stacking in face-up mode or 500 sheets in down-face mode; the capacity to switch between PCL and PostScript for every single print job without time lags as settings are stored in the controller; and simultaneous parallel port and network interface processing. Canon says an energy-saving device kicks in once a print job is finished to ensure the unit enters sleep mode.

Pricing for the LBP-2460 is $5499 RRP.

The unit may be fitted with a range of Emulex cards to ensure network connectivity to users working in platforms that include Macintosh, Windows 3.1, Windows NT and Windows 95.



The Canon LBP-2460: a new network laser printer for large departmental workgroups

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Canon
Phone: (02) 9805 2000
www.canon.com.au

CATCH OF THE DAY

The Barracuda Security Device is a programmable anti-theft system recently released onto the Australian market to assist in the protection of highly-sensitive business machines.

Barracuda is already utilised by the Commonwealth Bank, Kodak and Mobil Oil, and has been designed as a complete security solution specifically for Australian users.

The system works through the detection of light, sound and motion, emits a piercing 120-decibel alarm and disconnects the power supply when intrusion is registered.

To beef up the level of security offered, the Barracuda Security Device also releases a red dye — harmless to the computer's operation — that brands the goods as stolen.

The Barracuda Security Device is available now for a recommended retail price of $199.

Barracuda
Phone: (08) 9447 9287
w3.to/Barracuda

THE TRIGGER EFFECT

The power disasters that struck Auckland and Queensland early this year have probably alerted many of you to the risks associated with power shortages and surges.

To address these concerns Panamex has created a new system, the 240V Towermax KSU, specifically for use in Australian conditions for the protection of mini-computers, smaller PBXs and telephone key systems against electrical disturbances on AC and communication lines.

The 240V Towermax KSU protects computers against power shortages and surges

According to the Australian distributor, Eltek Pacific, the unit features an "autoground strap" that ensures true ground reference, and boasts a modular design that enables the protection of incoming data. Additionally, the 240V Towermax KSU features a 700v clamping level.

Recommended retail pricing for the 240V Towermax KSU is $199.

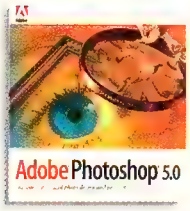
Eltek Pacific
Phone: (02) 9999 0000
www.panamex.com

AGFA PAPER

Agfa recently announced its intention to expand its family of scanners and digital imaging software to incorporate AgfaJet, a new range of paper developed for the inkjet paper market.

Available in three styles — inkjet paper, transparency film and photographic paper — AgfaJet utilises a photo-coating technology called PhotoTechnique that prevents →

NEW RELEASE !



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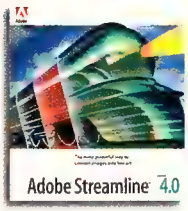
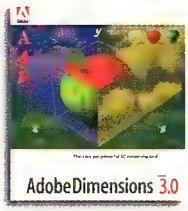
The ultimate page layout package

The leading illustration and design package

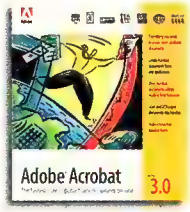
The tool that converts images into line art instantly





The easy way to add 3D graphics to your designs

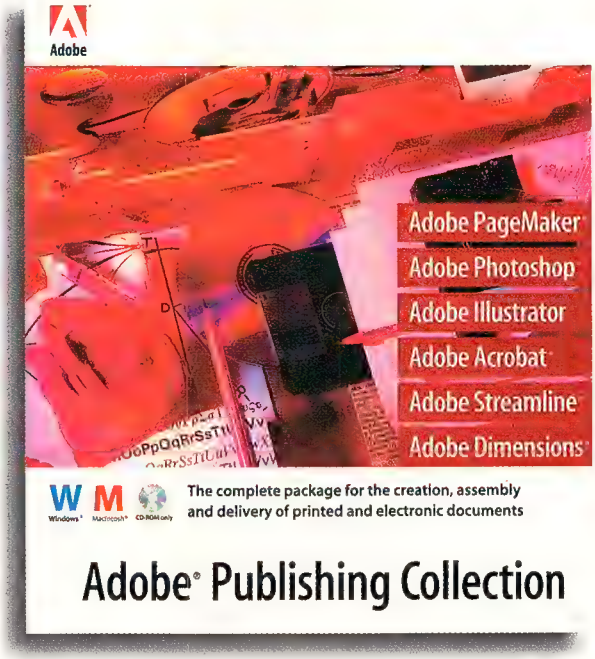
The smart way to publish online



IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE ONE BOX,

IT WOULD BE THIS ONE.

$2495
(SRP)



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And just to make the choice even easier for you, the Adobe Publishing Collection is the most convenient way to buy your favourite software packages, at a much lower cost to buying them separately.

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http://www.pacific.adobe.com

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Adobe

absorption or bleeding and produces images that look sharp and bright.

Pricing for the AgfaJet range starts at $12 RRP for a five-sheet package of either photographic paper or transparency film. AgfaJet inkjet paper is available in both A4 and A3 sizes in 200-sheet packs, pricing is $33 RRP and $87 RRP respectively. Agfa says mixed and sample packs are also available.

Agfa
Phone: (03) 9264 7711
www.agfa.com

KODAK CD WRITER

New from Kodak is the Kodak Digital Science 2801IDE CD Writer, a next-generation CD-R unit that Kodak says offers a low-cost solution for both mainstream and high-end users.

The 2801IDE CD Writer is an internal ATAPI-IDE that boasts a number of enhancements on its predecessor, the Kodak Digital Science 2600IDE CD Writer. These enhancements include an easier to use interface, beefed-up audio writing facilities, and improved software functionality through the inclusion of CeQuadrant ToGo! 4.5.

According to Kodak the 2801IDE CD Writer writes at 2x and reads at 8x, has an access time of 200ms and simply slots into the IDE port of your PC. Additionally, up to 650MB may be stored on every disc, and the unit is write once or write many capable.

The Kodak Digital Science 2801IDE CD Writer is available now for an estimated retail price of $642 and carries a one-year warranty.

Kodak
Phone: 1800 674 831
www.kodak.com

COMPAQ ANNOUNCES DESKPRO EN AND EP SERIES DESKTOPS

Compaq Computer Australia has redesigned its Deskpro family, claiming that the Deskpro EN and Deskpro EP Series offer "the highest-quality, best-value desktops available today".

The EN Series is designed for enterprise customers who want a "consistent, industry-standard" desktop. It is available in two form factors: traditional desktop and a smaller form (available in the third quarter). The PCs feature colour-coded levers for removal and replacement of drives without tools. Pricing starts at $2594.

The EP Series "delivers the best price/performance in an easy-to-use desktop", with pricing starting at $1695.

All new models incorporate Compaq's Intelligent Manageability, and support DMI 2.0, SNMP, Wired for Management (WfM) and Microsoft Zero Administration. The new Series machines support Microsoft PC98 spec and are Y2000-compliant.

Compaq Computer Australia
Phone: (02) 9911 1999
www.compaq.com.au

MICROSOFT GETS HERBAL . . . WELL, NATURAL ANYWAY

Microsoft has debuted the Microsoft Natural Keyboard Elite, a successor to Microsoft Natural Keyboard that according to the vendor sold over three million units.

As its name suggests, the Microsoft Natural Keyboard Elite is shaped ergonomically meaning it is split and shaped and sloped to an angle that encourages your body to rest naturally and relaxed. A palmrest is also incorporated in the Microsoft Natural Keyboard Elite's design so you can give your hands a break when you're taking a breather.

According to Microsoft, the keyboard features a smaller footprint than its predecessor and boasts a USB-compatibility option .

The Microsoft Natural Keyboard Elite lets your hands get natural, ergonomically

The Microsoft Natural Keyboard Elite is available now for an estimated retail price of $119.

Microsoft
Phone: 13 2058
www.microsoft.com.au

"TERA-IFIC" SOUND CARD

OK gamers listen up. Intresource Australia has announced a new sound card that utilises Aureal's A3D positional audio technology, the same technology employed in games like Jedi Knight, Battlezone and Red Line Racer.

The new card, TeraSound A3D PCI sound card, delivers full-duplex 48KHz 16-bit digital sound with as many as 128 simultaneous voices for a recommended retail price of $99.

Other features include six audio inputs and selectable line/6w audio output.

Intresource
Phone: (02) 9807 6999
www.intresource.com.sg

The TeraSound A3D PCI sound card

Let's talk about *your* specific needs.

Gateway™

Let's talk about getting connected.

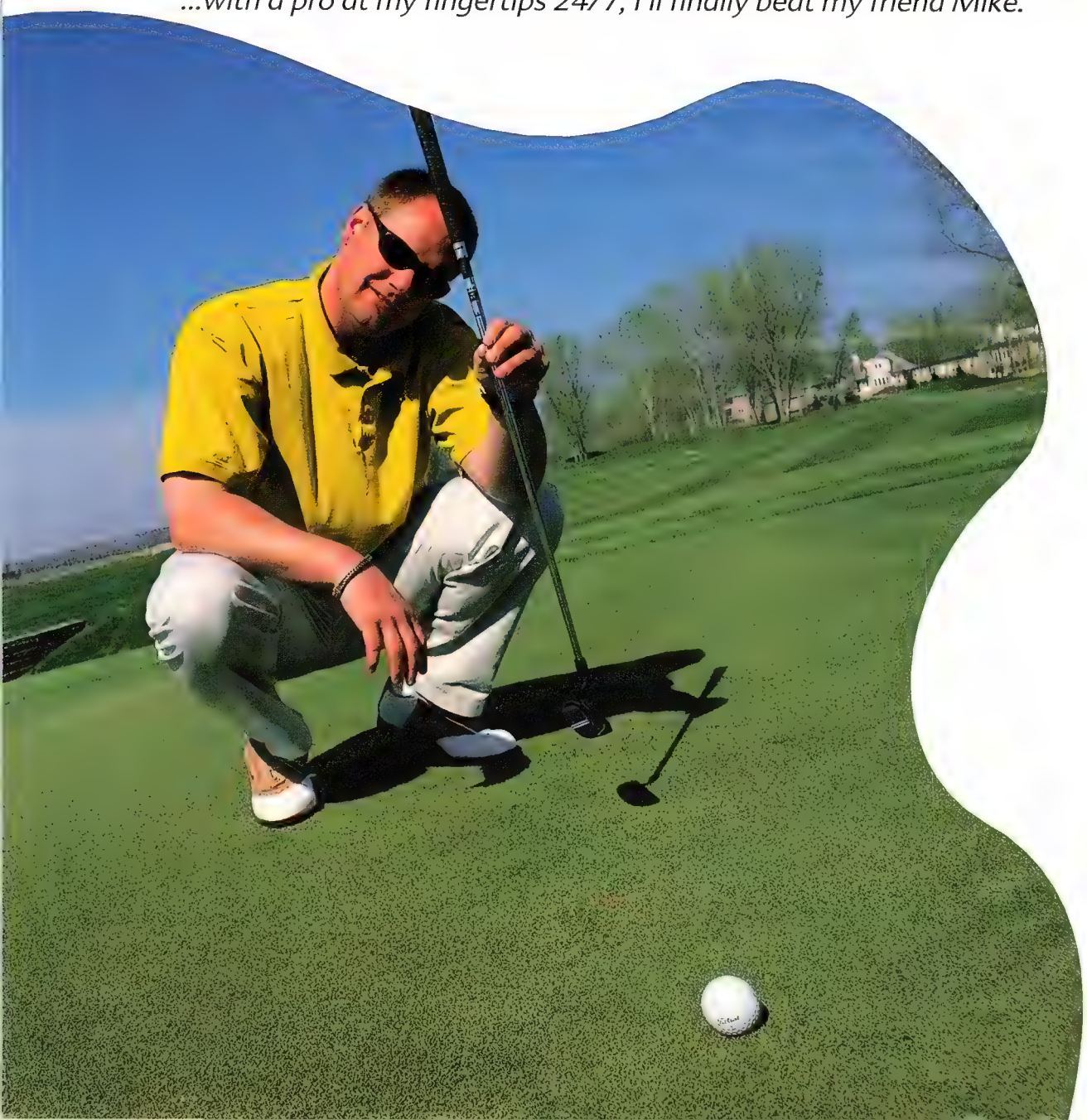
...I want an easy way to get on the Web.

Let's talk about graphite-shafted irons.

...I know I can find a better deal at the largest pro shop on the planet.

Let's talk about a nine handicap.

...with a pro at my fingertips 24/7, I'll finally beat my friend Mike.



Let's talk about your Gateway.℠

intel inside pentium® II PROCESSOR

Chris is always looking to improve his game. So we tailor made his PC with a ten gig hard drive and a 19-inch monitor. Now he can download tons of files into his "golf tips" folder and view them on a spacious course. And Chris was Internet ready with 50 free hours of internet access from Telstra Big Pond®, which chips him onto his favorite Web sites. He found a great deal on irons and learned he was opening his clubface on his drives. We can help your game too. Call today and... Let's talk about your Gateway.

A few of your options

	birdie (GP5-233)	eagle (G6-300)	double eagle (GP6-350)
processor (speed)	•Pentium® Processor w/MMX™ Technology 233MHz	•Intel® Pentium® II Processor 300MHz	• Intel® Pentium® II Processor 350MHz
RAM (memory)	•32MB SDRAM	•32MB SDRAM	•32MB SDRAM
hard drive (storage)	•2.5GB Ultra ATA	•2.5GB Ultra ATA	•5GB Ultra ATA
removable storage	•Min 13x/Max 32 x CD ROM	•Min 13x/Max 32 x CD ROM	•Min 13x/Max 32 x CD ROM
monitor (graphics)	•15" Colour, 2MB SGRAM Graphics	•15" Colour, 4MB 3D AGP Graphics	•15" Colour, 8MB 3D AGP Graphics
modem		•56K x 2 Technology	
sound		•Stereo Speakers	
software	•Microsoft® Windows 98, MS Works®	•Microsoft® Windows 98, MS Office SBE+	•Microsoft® Windows NT4.0, MS Office SBE+
	$1999 inc tax or as low as $18 per week†	**$2499** inc tax or as low as $22 per week†	**$3199** inc tax or as low as $28 per week†

Chris' caddy

Chris wanted a powerful system. We built his with:

- An Intel® Pentium® II Processor 400MHz
- 128MB SDRAM Memory
- 10GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive *(to store his golf-swing JPEGs)*
- DVD ROM & Zip Drive
- A 19" Colour Monitor and 8MB 3D AGP Graphics
- 56K x 2 Technology Modem
- Boston Acoustics Media Theatre™ Speakers
- Microsoft® Windows 98, MS Office SBE+

$5699 inc tax
or as low as $48 per week†

These G-Series desktops include: • 104-key with Win 95 keyboard • MS IntelliMouse™ • McAfee® VirusScan • Telstra Big Pond® Internet kit with 50 hours free access (included with modem only)*.

HELP!

• 3 year warranty** • 30 day customer satisfaction guarantee • Lifetime toll free phone support on hardware and operating systems • Extended warranty options available.

Let's talk about your Gateway™

call 1800 500 731

www.gw2k.com.au

Our sales hotline is open Monday to Friday 9am – 6.30pm and Saturday 9am – 5pm (EST)

Let's talk about editing a film.

...I need megs and megs of RAM.

Let's talk about pitching it to studio execs.

...with a screen that lets them kick back and enjoy my work.

Let's talk about blowing them away.

...if I had the right graphics, I could sell them before the opening credits.

Let's talk about your Gateway.℠

intel inside pentium® II processor

Melissa has an off-beat sense of humour, but a savvy sense of business. She needed a portable to handle high-end editing applications and to give seamless presentations. That meant Intel's fastest mobile processor available for shorter wait times, plenty of RAM for memory-eating programs and a screen to show it all. We built Melissa's Solo® portable to her exacting standards. We can do the same for you. Call today and... Let's talk about your Gateway.

A few of your options

	best actor (Solo® 2500LS) Our work horse portable, long on battery life.	**best editor (Solo® 5100)** Our large-screened notebook with a sleek, lightweight form.	**best picture (Solo® 5100LS)** Our light-weight, large-screen note book with powerful features.
screen size	•12.1" Active Matrix	•14.1" XGA Active Matrix	•14.1" XGA Active Matrix
processor (speed)	•Pentium® Processor w/MMX™ Technology 233MHz	•Pentium® Processor w/MMX™ Technology 233MHz	•Intel® Pentium® II Processor 233MHz
RAM (memory)	•32MB SDRAM	•32MB SDRAM	•64MB SDRAM
hard drive (storage)	•2GB Ultra ATA	•2GB Ultra ATA	•4GB Ultra ATA
removable storage	•All in one design, 1.44" diskette drive, 8 x min/20x max CD-ROM	•1.44" diskette drive & 8 x min/20x max CD-ROM	•1.44" diskette drive & 8 x min/20x max CD-ROM
modem			•56K Modem
video ram	•2MB VRAM	•2MB EDO VRAM	•2MB EDO VRAM
software	•Microsoft® Windows 98, MS Office SBE+	•Microsoft® Windows 98, MS Office SBE+	•Microsoft® Windows 98, MS Office SBE+
	$3999 inc tax or as low as $35 per week†	**$4499** inc tax or as low as $39 per week†	**$5499** inc tax or as low as $46 per week†

Melissa assistant director

Melissa needed a portable desktop to handle her extreme computing needs. We built hers with:

- A 14.1" XGA Active Matrix *(more viewable area than most 15" monitors)*
- An Intel® Pentium® II Processor 266MHz
- 128MB SDRAM Memory
- An 8GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive *(to store anything she wants)*
- A Combo 1.44" diskette drive & DVD-ROM *(watching movies is "research" for Melissa)*
- A 56K Modem
- 4MB SGRAM 3D Graphics
- Microsoft® Windows 98 and MS Office SBE+

$8499 inc tax
or as low as $71 per week†

All Solo® portables include: • 88-key with Win 95 keys • Lithium Ion battery: 12-cell for 2500 & 9100 and 9-cell for 5100's • 512K Cache • Stereo Sound, Speakers & Stereo Headphones • USB Ports, Card Bus, NTSC/PAL Video in and/or out, Fast IR & Docking • EZ Pad® Pointing Device • Carrying case (leather - 9100XL) • McAfee® VirusScan • Telstra Big Pond® Internet kit with 50 hours free access (included with modem)*.

HELP!

• 3 year warranty** • 30 day customer satisfaction guarantee • Lifetime toll free phone support on hardware and operating systems • Extended warranty options available.

Let's talk about your Gateway™

call 1800 500 731

www.gw2k.com.au

Our sales hotline is open Monday to Friday 9am – 6.30pm and Saturday 9am – 5pm (EST)

There's a Gateway near you

Gateway Showrooms
What better way to check out our products first-hand. Our showroom staff can give expert advice on which configuration best suits your needs.

Freecall
Our experienced consultants are always on stand-by ready to answer any queries you may have about Gateways' extensive products and services.

Just browsing?
Visit us at www.gw2k.com.au and check out the Configurator - a program that lets you build your own Gateway dream machine and then generates a quote. You can even order on-line.

Account executives
Corporate and Government clients are individually serviced by our dedicated business development teams. They will come to you and discuss how Gateway can address your specific needs.

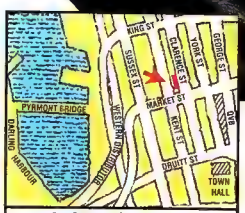
Owning your Gateway
Whether it's an entry level system or our Tower of Power G6-400XL, featuring the Intel® Pentium® II processor 400MHz, owning a Gateway computer is easy with our many payment options.

Credit Cards
We accept all major credit cards, including American Express and Diners Club, in person, by phone or over the internet.

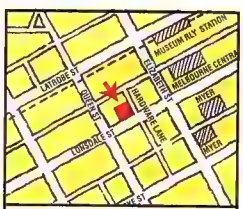
Payment on delivery
Upon paying a non-refundable amount of $100 at point of ordering, a bank cheque for the remainder can be accepted by courier when your new Gateway computer arrives.

Business accounts
Gateway offers corporate clients access to account terms. Once you have met our credit requirements, you can immediately place orders on your account.

Flexible finance
Our huge range finance options caters for individuals (interest-free and fixed rate), small, medium and large-size corporations and Government agencies (rental and leasing plans). We will help tailor a finance package to suit your needs.

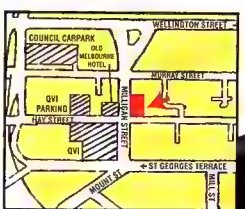


Sydney Showroom
225 Clarence Street, Sydney



Melbourne Showroom
398 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Brisbane Showroom
47-79 Elizabeth St, Brisbane



Perth Showroom
938 Hay Street, Perth

1800 500 731
www.gw2k.com.au

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Gateway™

SPEED DEMON?

Australian distributor Servex Australia has announced it is shipping a new high-speed CD-ROM drive from Aopen.

Called the Aopen 36x CD-936E, the drive delivers a maximum data transfer rate of 36x from 56 minutes or 32x from 45 minutes with reduced noise and vibration.

Servex Australia says the Aopen 36x CD-936E has been manufactured with a "robust suspension system" that ensures vibration control is maximised and absorbs external impact to offer users a highly stable playing environment.

The Aopen 36x CD-936E is currently available at a recommended retail price of $199.

Servex Australia
Phone: (02) 9870 1936
www.servex.com.au

IT AIN'T HEAVY — IT'S MY BROTHER

Brother has debuted its first desktop colour laser printer, the HL-2400C, developed to provide both professional and home users with a low-cost colour printing solution that doesn't shun quality.

For $6469 RRP, users can purchase the HL-2400C that will produce colour prints at 4ppm; and monochrome pages at 16ppm. The printer has the capacity to print at 2400dpi; according to Brother, these high-resolution images are produced by the Colour Advanced Photoscale Technology the printer utilises.

Powered by a 100MHz RISC-based microprocessor, the Brother HL-2400C supports both PostScript Level 2 and PCL5C/PCL6 and may be networked with Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Windows NT, and Macintosh environments.

Brother
Phone: (02) 9887 4344
www.brother.com

STOP: THIEF!

The STOP (Security Tracking of Office Property) anti-theft system uses ID plates, the international phone service and the Internet to protect computer hardware from theft and loss.

Each computer is marked with an identification plate that can be customised with a company logo. The plate shows a warning message, an ID number and an international toll-free phone number to verify the owner's identity.

If the ID plate is removed, an indelible message "Stolen Equipment" is left behind, plus the ID number and phone number. An Internet database (www.INTB.com) is maintained to track lost or stolen equipment.

STOP will cost between $19 and $29 per item per year, depending on the number of items to be protected.

Business Security Solutions
Phone: (02) 9287 9828
e-mail: bss_mail@nsw.mondial.net.au

Panasonic's UF-770i Internet fax machine sends faxes to e-mail addresses

FAX VIA E-MAIL?

A fax machine that can send messages via e-mail has been launched by Panasonic. At $6999 RRP, the UF-770i looks like a fax machine and works like a normal fax machine but has the added flexibility that it can transmit faxes to e-mail addresses.

To send a fax, the user dials the e-mail address as they would for a normal fax number. The machine then converts the fax to a TIFF-F file, links it to an e-mail in MIME format, and transmits the message to the mail server.

Panasonic says the UF-770i can also act as a scanner — users can send a "fax" to their own e-mail address, which will be received in TIFF format on their desktop.

Panasonic
Phone: 13 2600
www.panasonic.com.au

Software

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Australian-based vendor Cybec has established an antivirus centre in Melbourne to support its rapidly expanding range of antivirus solutions.

The centre, called the Vet Virus Control Centre, is home to 30 technical experts to provide crisis assistance to customers as well as to provide virus updates and research.

The head of the antivirus team, Dr Eugene Dozortsev, says the Vet Virus Control Centre has a "team approach to development projects". He added: "This area of the business has more than doubled . . . in order to develop and maintain antivirus software for six different operating systems."

Meanwhile, Cybec has also announced the availability of three new products: Vet MailSafe, Vet Confidential and Vet Net Surfer for Windows 98.

Vet MailSafe is a new application that enables administrators to check and halt e-mail containing viruses before they reach the recipient's desktop. This year 2000-compliant utility provides real-time checking and notification, activity logging, and optional message footers. Vet MailSafe also boasts a profanity checker that enables users to block e-mail that

Two new products from Cybec

contains previously nominated text strings (like "resume" a Vet spokesman suggested).

Pricing for Vet MailSafe is $79 RRP for a single user, $399 RRP for a 10-user licence, $2324 RRP for a 100-user licence, and $8574 RRP for a 1000-user licence.

For users who want to protect their PCs against unwanted intrusion, Cybec has created Vet Confidential, a new application that secures your sensitive information by locking PC access when you're away, necessitating password entry to gain access to terminals and applications and encrypting data using "military-grade techniques".

Pricing for Vet Confidential is $119 RRP for a single user, $1019 RRP for a 10-user licence, $8619 for a 100-user licence, and $75,619 for a 1000-user licence.

Finally, Cybec has released Vet Net Surfer for the recently debuted Windows 98. This application provides users with protection against file and boot sector viral infections, multi-partite viruses and polymorphic viruses. It specifically ensures protection from viruses that can be transmitted in Internet downloads. The year 2000-compliant Vet Net Surfer for Windows 98 boasts free tech support, free upgrades and updates for one year after purchase.

Vet Net Surfer for Windows 98 is available for an RRP of $79.

Cybec
Phone: (03) 9825 5600
www.vet.com.au

THE MELODY MAKER

I toyed with the idea of writing this summary in a musical style to help illustrate the potential of the device, but the specs speak for themselves . . .

This month Yamaha Music Australia will debut a new range of computer audio recording and mixing products known as The DSP Factory. The launch marks the audio sound specialist's first step into the world of computer recording.

The first product to be released is the DS2416 digital mixing card, which offers users 16 tracks of hard disk recording with a resolution up to 32 bits and a digital mixer that offers the performance power of the Yamaha 02R digital mixer.

The digital mixing card additionally boasts an audio-streaming engine that permits users to simultaneously record eight tracks, 24-channel digital mixing with 10 bus outputs and six aux sends, 26 dynamic processors, two effect processors and 104 bands of parametric EQ. For greater results, the option to link two cards together is also available.

The DS2416 will become available during August at an estimated retail price of $2000.

Yamaha Music Australia
Phone: 1800 805 413
www.yamaha.com

SECRETARY ON YOUR DESKTOP

For personal assistants the bulk of their job is making an incompetent manager look good; however, there does come a time when they find themselves retyping boring memos and faxes. Enter Xerox ScanSoft with TextBridge Pro 98, a next-generation optical character recognition (OCR) scanning application.

TextBridge Pro 98 has been developed for both SOHO and corporate users that need to transfer on-paper documents to electronic formats without retyping data.

TextBridge Pro 98's Australian distributor, Marketing Results, says the new scanning software is as much as 82 per cent more accurate than previous releases.

TextBridge Pro 98 boasts a swag of other features that include improved document and table recognition; new page templates; an easy-to-follow instructional wizard; and "seamless instant access" to most Windows applications.

TextBridge Pro 98 permits users to edit scanned documents from a variety of applications including word programs, HTML and spreadsheets.

Marketing Results' director, Rodney Orrock, said: "TextBridge Pro 98 has taken the field of OCR scanning to new levels of accuracy and ease of use, particularly for people who routinely work with text-intensive documents."

TextBridge Pro 98 is available now for a recommended retail price of $199.

Marketing Results
Phone: (02) 9899 5888
www.textbridge.com

TextBridge Pro 98: OCR software that takes the pain out of retyping already printed data

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MOVE OVER SPIELBERG

Bravado 2000 for Windows is a new video-editing package created by TrueVision to assist first time non-linear video users in the creation of professional looking videos.

Maxwell Optical Industries, Bravado 2000 for Windows' Australian distributor, says the package offers video-for-Windows native video capture, editing and playback that may be output directly from a desktop PC in both NTSC and PAL. The vendor says the package offers true Plug and Play set up.

Bravado 2000 for Windows bundles hardware capable of full motion 60 fields per second video capture,16-bit audio capture and real-time motion JPEG compression up to 6MBps, with Adobe Premiere 4.2 and seven-track video layering capabilities.

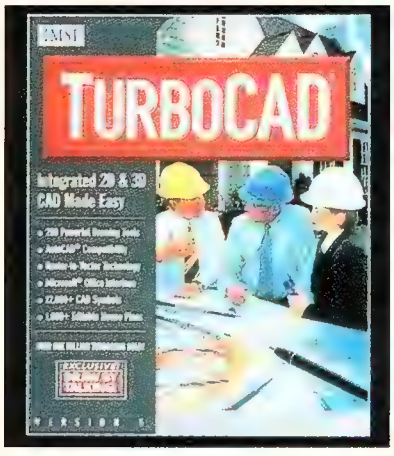
Pricing for Bravado 2000 for Windows is $2400 RRP. The package holds a three-year guarantee.

Maxwell Optical Industries
Phone: (02) 9390 0220
www.truevision.com

ELECTRONIC ENGINEER

TurboCAD V5 is a computer-aided design (CAD) application created for both professional engineers or architects, as well as the novice student or home user.

For a recommended retail price of $199.95, TurboCAD V5 provides you with integrated 3D wireframe capabilities for all your design requirements.



IMSI's new CAD application, TurboCAD V5, which it says is for the home user to the professional

The application features over 250 CAD tools, interactive 3D rendering capabilities, multiple windows for both the same and different drawings, and simple-to-comprehend set-up wizards.

TurboCAD V5's creator, IMSI, says unique to the new utility is its speech recognition abilities: CAD commands may be spoken and automatically recorded (provided your PC boasts a built-in audio system and microphone).

Other notable features include the ability to perform rastor-to-vector conversion of the images you have scanned and software synchronisation for automatic driver and bitmap updates. The package contains over 12,000 CAD symbols and more than 1000 editable house plans.

Once you have purchased the utility, IMSI Australia says you will have access to online software updates and Internet-based help.

Dataflow
Phone: (02) 9417 9700
www.imsi.com.au

TRENDY VIRUS CONTROL?

New from Trend Micro is the Trend Virus Control System, a virus management solution that enables administrators to configure and monitor multiple antivirus applications – including third party utilities – from a central location.

Among the features of the Trend Virus Control System are server-domain management, which enables administrators to group servers into domains in order to vary the levels of protection allocated to specific groups; centralised reporting, which provides a general overview of network activity; virus alerts facilities; and platform independence, which means that Trend Virus Control System supports a number of browsers that may be accessed from all locations.

Pricing for the Trend Virus Control System is either $1500 for 1000-user management or $5000 for +1000-user management. Trend Micro says customers with two or more Trend Micro applications can receive the Trend Virus Control System as an add-on free of charge.

Trend Micro's Trend Virus Control System offers a number of features to assist administrators in managing server protection

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Trend Micro
Phone: (02) 8876 5678
www.trendmicro.com.au

NO MORE SYSTEM CRASHES?

After Bill's (as in Gates) embarrassing display of the "blue screen of death" while displaying (well trying to) the Plug and Play capabilities of Win 98 it shows that everyone is susceptible to crashes . . .

Hot Key has announced a new application developed to protect your Windows 95, NT and 3.1x systems against system crashes by reducing general protection faults and illegal operations.

The new product, called RamGate Gold, features contiguous memory protocol, which makes crash minimalisation possible. Additionally, RamGate Gold permits users to configure protection level around individual applications – not the system – to beef-up protection levels.

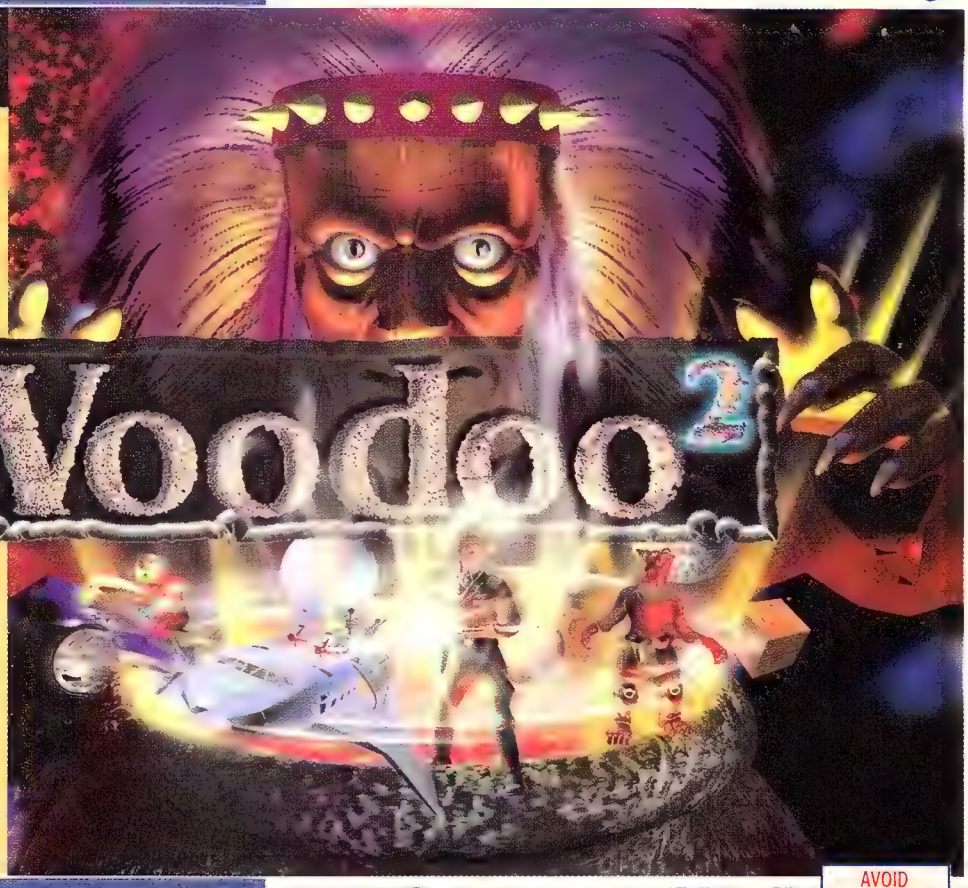
RamGate Gold is available currently for a recommended retail price of $99.

Hot Key
Phone: (02) 9922 5199
www.hotkey.com.au

Introducing 3D Like You've Never Seen It Before!

CREATIVE

3D BLASTER™



Meet the only 3D game accelerator hot enough to carry the official 3Dfx Interactive VOODOO² graphics brand. With 8Mb of high speed memory and three separate processors running in parallel, the 3D Blaster VOODOO² delivers effective fill rates as high as 180 million pixels per second - that's four times faster than the current VOODOO graphics chipset. Comes with G-Police, Ultimate Racing Pro and Incommings.

Also available with 12Mb of memory for $599

399

AVOID COMPATIBILITY PROBLEMS

Not all computer products suit all computers. Please check with our trained staff before you purchase.

Harvey Norman

Harvey Norman COMPUTERS & COMMUNICATIONS

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Freight extra in Western Australia and Australian country areas and price will differ in New Zealand. Prices shown are in Australian dollars. Stock may not be displayed in all stores. HNI8007

WISE UP TO WINDOWS 98

By the time you read this, the hardcore Windows freaks among you will just be getting back into normal sleeping patterns after waiting up till midnight to buy a copy on the release day back in June . . .

To coincide with the release of Windows 98, Microsoft Press released a series of reference products to help make the migration from Windows 95 to Windows 98 as pain-free as possible.

The titles released include:

• The Microsoft Windows 98 Resource Kit, a reference manual for systems administrators that require what Microsoft calls "under the hood" instruction – details of the FAT32 file system, point-to-point tunnelling protocol and the IEEE 1394 bus, and other issues more complex in nature.

This manual is bundled with over 50 tools and utilities on CD-ROM and has a recommended retail price of $160.

• Microsoft Windows 98 Starts Here is a manual dedicated to exploring the content and power of Windows 98. Recommended retail pricing is $69.95.

• Running Microsoft Windows 98 is a guide that boasts over 800 pages of comprehensive information and tips for using Windows 98. A searchable CD-ROM is bundled with this title. Recommended retail pricing is $89.95.

• Microsoft Windows 98 at a Glance is a simple visual reference guide available for a recommended retail price of $39.95.

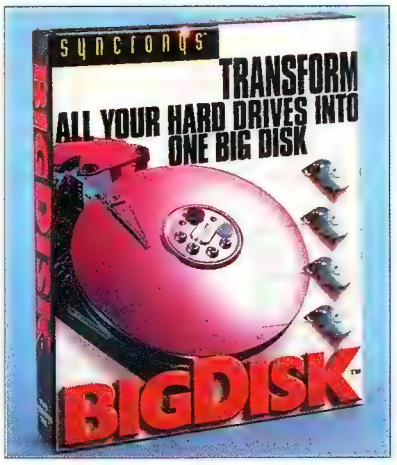
A variety of other titles are available including step-by-step guides and virtual tutorials.

Microsoft
Phone: 13 2058
mspress.microsoft.com/

SIZE DOES MATTER

New from US-based vendor Syncronys Softcorp is BigDisk, a Windows 95-specific utility that enables all hard drives on a PC to be read as one large drive.

Benefits gained from utilising BigDisk, according to Australian-based distributor Marketing Results, include an expansion of free space on your C: drive, the relocation of "user-designated directories" away from the C: drive, and redirection of files to a secondary drive while Windows reads them like they still were on the C: drive. All this can be achieved, says Marketing Results, through the presence of the application's Virtual File Management System.



Having C: drive space dramas? BigDisk may be your saviour

Marketing Results director Rodney Orrock said: "Most PC users have at some point wished that they had more space on their hard drive. Now BigDisk has come to the rescue. By freeing up space that ordinary disk utilities can't, BigDisk is like having one extra-large drive."

BigDisk is available now for a recommended retail price of $79.95.

Marketing Results
Phone: (02) 9899 5888
www.syncronys.com

OOOOOH AHHHHH FIREWORKS!

Software creator Macromedia has announced that a full version of its Web development software Fireworks is now available.

For an estimated retail price of $549 users can purchase a beefed-up release of a utility that provides an environment in which they can create, optimise and produce bitmapped graphics for the Internet.

The full version of Fireworks boasts features which were available in the downloadable version – including permanently editable text and effects and visual export preview mode – plus a whole lot more.

New to the full version of Fireworks are features that include an image slicing function that facilitates faster download times; WenSanp, a palette for high-fidelity images; symbols, instances and tweening for better animations; and enhanced Dreamweaver integration for cleaner and smoother Web design.

Macromedia says it received over 60,000 feedback responses to the beta version and subsequently has integrated a number of new functions into the full version. A 30-day trial version of Macromedia Fireworks may be downloaded from www.getfireworks.com

---

Firmware Design
Phone: 1800 060 357
Scholastic Australia
Phone: (02) 4328 3555
www.macromedia.com

ARE YOU A NOTEBOOK ROAMER?

For the roving business professional Symantec has created Norton Mobile Essentials, a new utility designed to minimise the headaches associated with working from a remote location while still trying to connect to the office.

It alleviates out-of-the-office nightmares by addressing three key areas: trip preparation, assistance when reconfiguring for new locations and the resolution of connectivity problems rapidly.

Symantec has teamed up with Biztravel.com to offer global travel information to users of Norton Mobile Essentials.

Meanwhile, Symantec has also announced that the Symantec AntiVirus Research Centre or SARC will now post weekly virus definition updates as opposed to the monthly frequency. New downloads will be available every Thursday night. ■

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Readers' Forum

THE TAX FOOD CHAIN

- Ian Roissetter

I think there may be more to be added to your article on sales tax on computers [*June 1998, PC Directory, page 178*].

With VAT the tax process happens at *every* point in the sales chain. For example, when you buy a widget the person who sells the ore to make the metal levies VAT; the manufacturer who sells it to the wholesaler levies VAT; the wholesaler who sells it to the retailer levies VAT; the retailer who sells it to you levies VAT.

As you can see, the sneaky thing is that VAT is levied on the price which is paid, including VAT, and not on the price of the article itself. Thus, the VAT is levied at each level on the previous VATs!

You have to be really sneaky to think this one up – but then how else do you pay for all your lurks and perks?

OZEMAIL'S OK BY ME

- Tim Brimelow

Another reader wrote about over-zealous billings by OzEmail [*July 1998, Readers' Forum, page 50*].

I have never had any trouble with OzEmail billing me, even when I accidentally defaulted on paying them for two months due to a credit card number change. OzEmail kept me connected during this time and advised me of the non payment via e-mail. I called their accounts people and they gave me another two months to make the back payments. Shortly afterwards, OzEmail contacted me to make sure all was well with their service. I reckon OzEmail are second to none when it comes to ISP.

WIN 98 IMPRESSIONS I

- Tarik Sedlarevic

I had a look at an OEM version of Windows 98 running on a Pentium II 400. It looked OK in terms of performance, after switching off Active Desktop and Explorer enhancements, but with those things on it was slowing things down even with 128MB of RAM. Memory management is still dreadful and security is non-existent, but I guess that's what they sell NT for. . .

WIN 98 IMPRESSIONS II

- Louis Hissink

I work in the corporate environment and prefer NT4 on the big metal box, but as I also have to run portables, NT is a definite no-no. So, as a self-confessed software junkie, I am running the latest beta of 98 and, well, it seems more stable but does funny things unexpectedly on the PII 266. At least it recovers gracefully – that is why it is a beta !

Now, I use a Libretto 50CT for fieldwork. It has Mapinfo on it with the GPS option, so that I can locate mining anomalies with the GPS. One really irritating feature of the Libretto is that it occasionally loses its PC Card facility. This ought not to be too great a problem, but becomes so when the system disks are 3000km away. So, stuck in Perth (I am based in Sydney), I had the difficult problem of getting the PC Card drivers operating again. So I installed Win 98. I did get the PC Card drivers back; discovered that Win 98 comes with a really useful backup utility; and by using Fat32 increased performance and disk space.

Win 98 was loaded straight onto the new PII 266 workstation and zooms along. Shutting down is instantaneous, with no fancy "green" features enabled. Though the stability of NT would be preferred, many of the really useful programs I use seem to work better, for the moment, on Win 95/98. Hardware compatibility is the more important issue, and el cheapo scanners prefer Win 95/98.

A MOVING STORY

- Chris Benham

Malcolm, I know your frustration at moving from Macintosh to Win95/NT [*July 1998, Readers' Forum, page 51*].

But a few suggestions for you and other Mac-to-PC users – get hold of MacSee, a little utility to enable you to use your existing Mac-formatted disks on your PC. And look out for TrueType Converter, or a similar utility, to convert your Mac

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TrueType fonts to Windows ones; this will ensure your files will look the same and paginate properly. Both of these are shareware and available on many Mac and PC Internet sites.

Avoid the Windows Explorer like the plague and create shortcuts for your drives on the desktop. Move the Recycle Bin to the bottom right-hand corner and the Taskbar to the top of the screen — at least it makes the desktop look like a Macintosh! If you are a graphic artist the reality remains that Windows 95/NT do not have the OS-level colour handling systems that are built into the Mac OS to ensure colour is accurately represented on the screen in the way it will print. Most high-end graphics packages do offer some enhancements to at least partially offset this.

But the ultimate option is to buy a new G3 PowerMac which runs at least twice as fast as the best Wintel have to offer!

BOOT AND WIN

- Alan Priol

I read with interest the letter from Dr Greg Ash [*July 1998, Readers' Forum, page 50*], having done the same thing myself with the same results.

I removed Win 98 beta 3 completely and did a clean install. The problem still existed, with the startup stopping at the command prompt and refusing to start Windows. Only by using the step-by-step configuration would it load. This prompted me to examine the msdos.sys file, and by comparing with a previous backup I found the line Bootwin= had been set at 0; changing it back to Bootwin=1 and resetting its attributes solved the problem.

I am only sorry this wasn't done before the reinstall, although I finished up with a lean, clean system again. Maybe this will help someone else who has done the same thing.

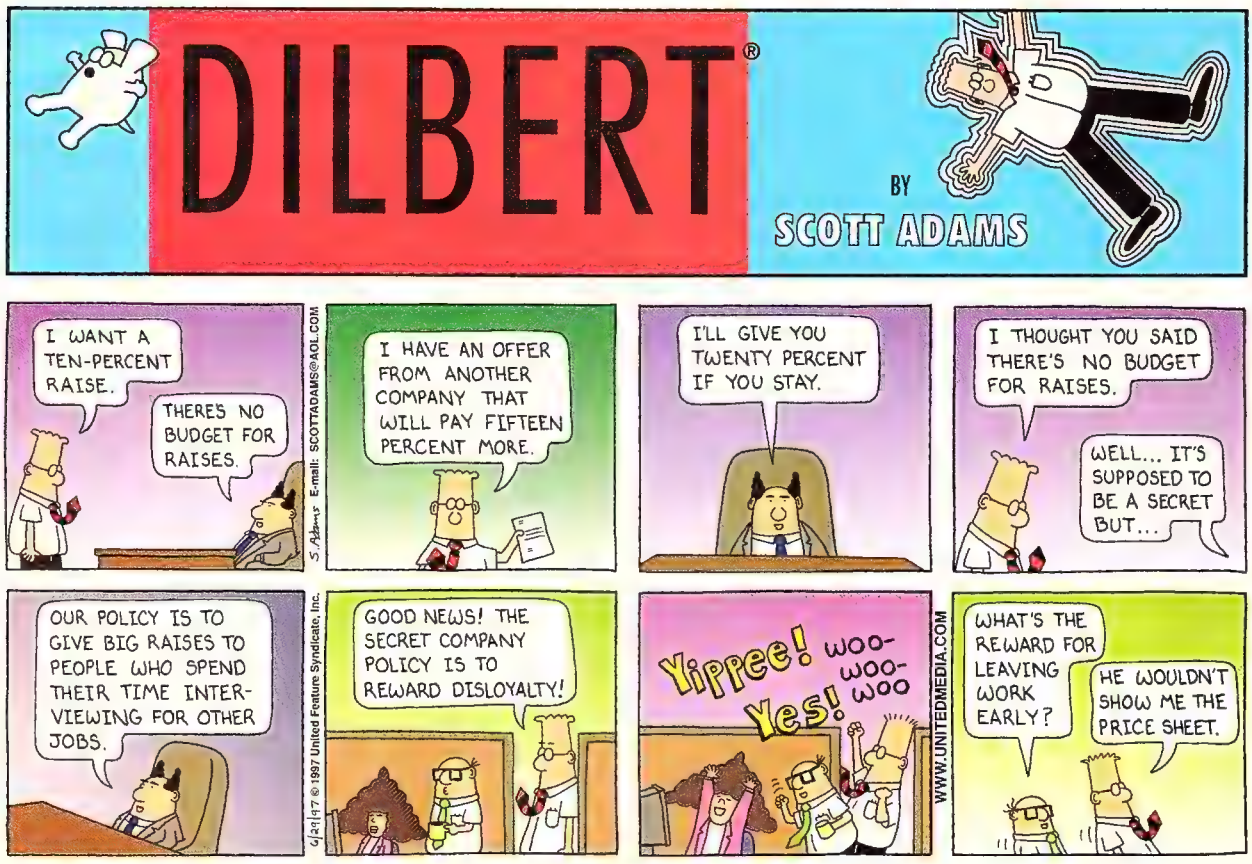
DICTATION RECOLLECTION

- Virginia Lee

I've just had my coffee break (!) and enjoyed your article *Dictating Terror!* enormously [*July 1998, Dialogue Box, page 16*]. Nearly laughed myself silly, in fact.

Along the same lines as your article, I thought you might enjoy this true story. A little over 30 years ago I was working as a legal secretary in London. My boss — as good a solicitor as he was — was hopeless when it came to dictation. Every morning I would sit across the desk from him while he mumbled and bumbled his way through correspondence and a variety of documents. His sentence structure and grammar were so awful that as I took the shorthand, I changed things around to a more acceptable and business-like form! For several years, he signed everything I had done and often congratulated himself on good writing.

I migrated to Australia and when I returned to London for a holiday some years later I went back to see this solicitor. I asked him who had replaced me. "Oh," he replied, "I've had several secretaries since you left — and do you know? . . . Not one of them has ever typed what I dictate." I didn't enlighten him. ■



First Looks

Ricoh Aficio FX10

MOST NEEDS, MOST OF THE TIME

Multifunction by definition implies the ability to accomplish various tasks with a single piece of equipment. In the computer world, almost by default, this single piece of equipment accomplishes these various tasks equally badly, giving plenty away to its dedicated counterparts. Often applied as a euphemism for compromise, multifunction nevertheless has its appeal in smaller business imaging needs – cost effectiveness and occupation of minimal real estate. Some manage the right blend of user-friendliness and function, while others barely live up to the multifunction label.

Thankfully, the new Ricoh Aficio FX10 is closer to the former group, though its controls show a strong bent towards photocopiers. Touted as "a deluxe personal imaging system designed and built with the user in mind", the Aficio FX10 combines five functions into a machine about the size of a small photocopier. These functions include plain paper digital copier and fax, scanner, laser printer and PC fax modem. The FX10 has a rated copy resolution of 400dpi and 300dpi for printing. Engine speed is a respectable 10 pages per minute (ppm), which should keep most small offices happy.

Ease of use is hampered a little by the Aficio's complex menu system, which requires far too much user input to complete a simple task. Copying is perhaps its strongest suit, allowing originals to be placed on the flatbed glass or fed through a 30-page Automatic Document Feeder (ADF) on the top side of the lid. The ADF also makes light work of faxing multiple sheet documents.

The FX10 can enlarge and reduce on the fly between 50–200 per cent, as well as reproducing multiple copies from a single scan. A photo mode available on the control panel allows the copier to make reproductions of pictures in finer tones. The standard input paper bin holds 100 sheets, with an option for an extra 100 sheets for a second media type. Manual feed is available also.

Switching between copy and fax modes is as simple as pressing a button – the rest, however, takes a little figuring out. With a built-in 14.4Kbps modem, the FX10 can operate as a conventional fax machine or fax straight from the PC via the parallel port. Sending faxes from the control panel isn't immediately intuitive, which has the potential to be a problem in an office environment where a number of people need to use the FX10. Bitware Cheyenne fax software is included as well as Caere's OmniPage Limited Edition OCR and OfficeStyler T10 printer driver support for Windows 3.1 and Windows 95.

The FX10 can print in two modes: GDI and PCL. The latter is for DOS printing, while GDI (Graphical Device Interface) uses Windows' resources for its printing needs. In some instances GDI can be faster than printers with their own processing resources because no translation needs to take place between the PC and the printer. However, that depends largely on the PC's configuration and what it's being used for at the time of printing.

In GDI mode, it supports various features, such as manual duplexing, reverse order, overlay, 2up/4up and scaling. The printer console configuration and monitoring software allows you to easily customise and keep an eye on what the printer is doing. Networking is supported only via Windows peer-to-peer workgroup environment, requiring the PC connected to the FX10 to become a server for the printer.

Scanning will be limited to proofs and basic imaging as the Aficio is black-and-white only, though its 400dpi resolution picks up reasonably good detail. TWAIN-compliant, the FX10 is compatible with most image capture applications on the market.

If all the Aficio's functions were rated in order of how well they live up to each task, it would go something like this (from best to worst): photocopying, faxing from the PC, faxing, laser printing, then scanning. Compromises are evident in the Aficio FX10, and there's room for improvement in the ergonomics department, but as a small or home office one-stop solution, it just may well suit most needs most of the time.

- Simon Tsang

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Camera Reviews

MEGA PICTURE SATISFACTION

Digital cameras are falling from the sky! Well, they might as well be — every vendor under the sun has released a new digital camera in the last couple of months (see Multimedia Solutions, page 126). Epson and Kodak are not to be forgotten, because they've both released digital cameras (the Kodak Digital Science DC260 and the Epson PhotoPC 700) that fall into the megapixel category — cameras that provide a maximum resolution of one million pixels or more.

This review is good news if you have been holding out on buying a digital camera, waiting for a resolution revolution. Finally digital cameras are producing images good enough for magazine and brochure production, providing such fine detail that you wouldn't know they hadn't been through the old C-41 and E-6.

KODAK DC260

Kodak's DC260, launched in July, is now its top-of-the-range digital camera. Priced at $2449 (RRP), it's loaded with features that make it one of the most desirable digital cameras around.

The DC260 boasts a maximum resolution of 1536 x 1024 pixels, which produces finely-detailed images with no hint of pixelation (take a look at the shot of eyes, below, and you'll see skin pores!) — good enough for reproduction in this magazine (we use photos at 300dpi or higher). Two other resolutions are also on offer: medium (1152 x 768) and standard (768 x 512), which is particularly useful for Web work or to conserve space on the 8MB memory card included with the camera.

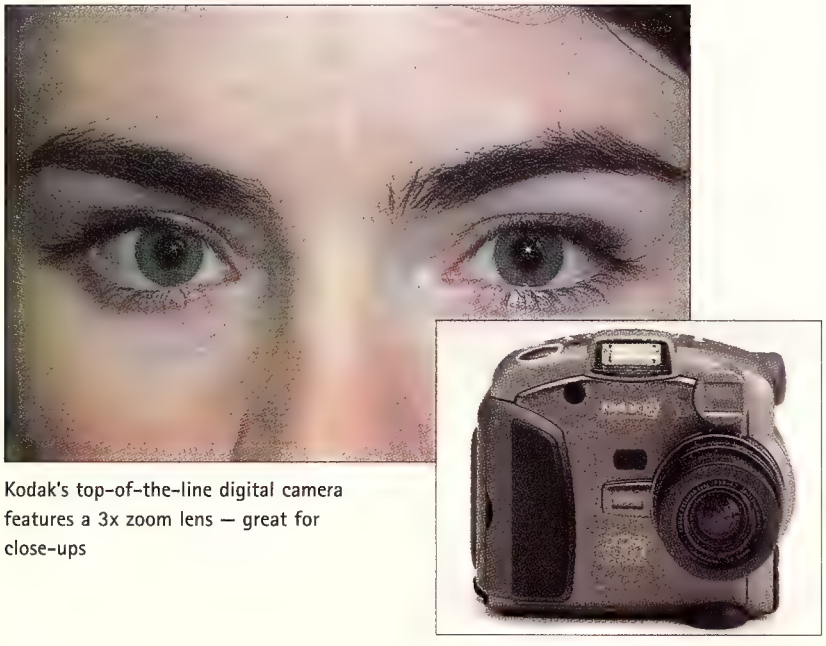
The camera's 3x zoom lens, with a focal length of 8–24mm (equivalent to 38–115mm lens on a 35mm camera), really makes the DC260 stand apart from similar cameras on the market. It's easy to use and provides versatility in the shots you can take.

The flash gives good coverage over the 0.68–3m range and there are four flash modes: off, auto, fill and red-eye. A big plus is the ability to plug in an external flash, such as a studio flash, which should certainly appeal to marketing departments publishing product catalogues. When shooting indoors, you can adjust the white balance to Tungsten or Fluorescent. If photos are coming out too dark or light, the exposure can be adjusted in 0.5 increments.

Downloading images from the camera is easy with the bundled Kodak Picture Easy Software, and thanks to the camera's USB support it can be much faster than a serial port connection.

I mustn't forget to mention the 2in colour LCD screen on the back of the camera, which handily displays a range of things: photos a second or two after they're taken; photos stored on the memory card (one by one or all at once as thumbnails); and menus that allow you to change camera settings. You can also view your photographic subject real-time in the LCD screen, though this is a battery-muncher.

The DC260 has a host of other features, like the ability to record audio attachments to photos and the option of organising photos stored in the camera into "albums". It's a camera that can be used at the basic auto-everything level to create great images easily, or can be taken a step further and customised in just about every way. This is one camera that will be very hard to send back to the vendor.



Kodak's top-of-the-line digital camera features a 3x zoom lens — great for close-ups

To give you an idea of resolutions, we've put a few images taken with each camera on our cover CD.

Kodak Digital Science DC260
Kodak Australia
Phone: 1800 674 831
www.kodak.com

Epson PhotoPC 700
Epson Australia
Phone: (02) 9903 9000
www.epson.com.au

EPSON PHOTOPC 700

This is Epson's first megapixel camera, and it was a pleasant surprise to find it closer to the $1000-mark than the $2000-plus I was expecting.

The PhotoPC 700 ($1299 ESP) is a nice, little, unassuming camera. It doesn't have the pizzazz of the Kodak DC260, with a cutesy shutter release sound and so on, but delivers in what counts — image quality.

The camera offers a maximum resolution (Super Fine) of 1280 x 960 pixels with low compression; a Fine resolution of 1280 x 960 pixels with medium compression; and a Standard

resolution of 640 x 480 pixels with high compression. There's also a black and white option for the Fine and Super Fine modes. Using the Super Fine mode, the results are detailed, sharp and with good colour rendition.

The flash is not that powerful and unfortunately there's no option to plug in an external flash, so for indoor shots it's wise to keep within the 2.4m range.

The PhotoPC 700 has a 5.5mm lens (equal to a 36mm lens on a 35mm camera), with apertures of f2.8, f5.6 and f11. A 2x digital zoom mode offers a resolution of 640 x 480 pixels, and there's also panorama mode which captures images at 1280 x 480 pixels. The macro mode allows you to get in close (10–50cm) to your subject.

As with the Kodak camera, white balance and exposure can be adjusted, and you can set the camera to continuous shoot, which takes two photos per second and up to 10 in a sequence.

The only real problem I had with the PhotoPC 700 was working out how to use the more advanced features – the menu system is chock-full of options (but that can't be a bad thing either).

- Molly Furzer

Epson's PhotoPC 700 produces sharp images with great depth of field

---

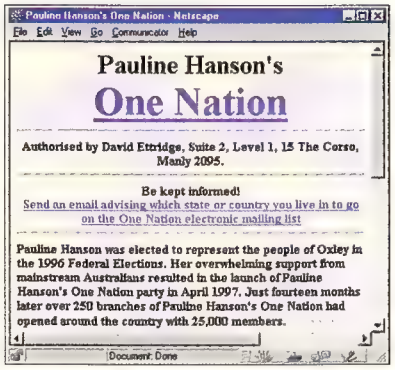
Prudence

PLAYING BIG BROTHER WITH PRUDENCE

Media reports warn parents almost daily about the dire consequences of exposing their children to the lewd or terroristic content of the Internet. While governments wrestle with censorship issues and the virtually impossible (but vote-winning) task of sheltering children from a range of online horrors, products such as CYBERSitter and NetNanny have assumed the role of electronic guardian, by blocking "objectionable" sites.

These programs are not without drawbacks. The reliability of their content-filtering is questionable – Web sites appear and vanish so rapidly that filtering databases are rarely up to date. And stories abound of how blocking software can prevent access to educational and other innocuous sites.

Enter Prudence – a monitoring tool that takes an altogether different approach. Prudence doesn't block access to specific sites. In fact, it doesn't block access at all. It simply maintains a record of sites visited and content downloaded. These details are stored in an encrypted folder accessible only to the parent, who can examine his or her child's browsing history and decide whether a stern word is necessary. Paranoid parents can go a step further and configure Prudence to send browsing reports to their office e-mail address.



Concerned about your children's browsing habits? Keep a close watch on them with Prudence

Children, naturally, will loathe Prudence. What will it be next, they are bound to wonder – a tap on the phone? A security camera in the bedroom? Parents who feel uneasy in the role of Big Brother may favour less intrusive methods of keeping their offspring on the cyber straight and narrow.

It's worth noting, too, that any child with an ounce of technical nous will break Prudence's "security" features in a couple of minutes (developers really shouldn't store unencrypted passwords in the Windows Registry). And once they have the password – well, the kids might start monitoring you . . .

- Neville Clarkson

A 15-day trial version of Prudence for Win 95/NT can be found on this month's cover CD.

Prudence
RRP: $US49.95
The Blue Wolf Network
www.bluewolfnet.com

Illuminatus 4.0

MULTIMEDIA CD AUTHORING

I know you shouldn't judge a multimedia authoring package by its cover, but gosh it's hard not to. Illuminatus 4.0 is a tool for creating professional presentations, tutorials and quizzes for distribution via CD-ROM or the Internet, and for a product that's all about creative design, the aesthetics of Illuminatus are pretty ordinary.

For starters, graphics on the CD jewel-case and manual cover look scrappy – hardly an inspiring first impression. The same feeling carries over to the clunky collection of reusable resources (button designs and graphics) on the second CD-ROM.

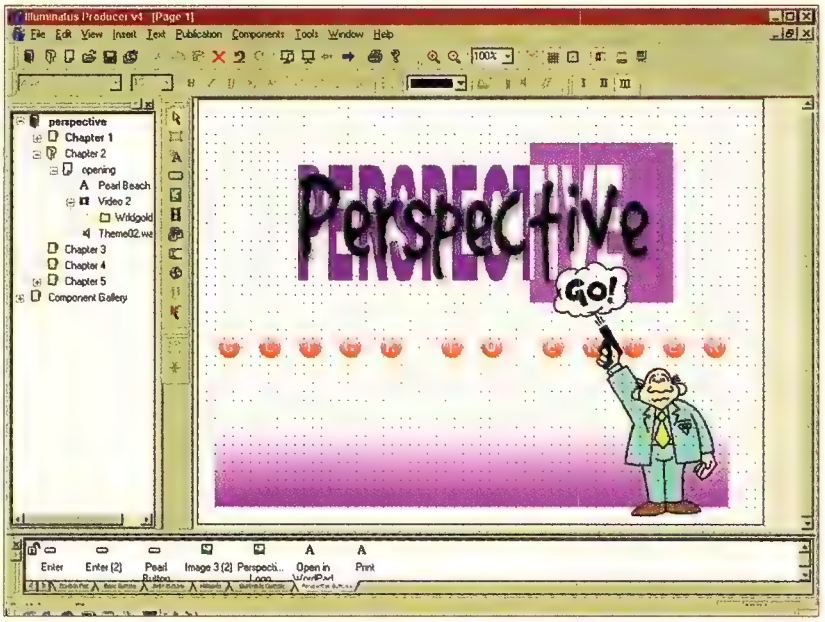
Take my advice – if you've got any artistic flair, ignore them, and create your own.

But don't be put off. Under the wraps, Illuminatus is simple enough to master easily, and powerful enough to create some impressive results. The learning curve isn't steep – just think of it as a desktop publishing program with animation and sound and you're not far from the money. Everything is built around a drag-and-drop control system, with a tool bar offering easy access to text boxes, picture objects, buttons, video and sound clips.

Projects are divided into chapters and pages. To control the flow of your presentation, you link the pages with clickable on-screen buttons, or synchronise progress with coordinated time delays. There's a range of standard transition effects to smooth the gaps between images.

Each page can contain graphics, sounds, AVI animation files (but not animated GIFs), text input boxes, text display boxes (with automatic scroll bars) and control buttons. Page design is easy and flexible – it's simply a matter of dragging objects into place and shuffling them around until you're happy with the results.

Objects can be assigned a range of properties and actions – here's where the fun starts. Once an object is in place, it's simply a matter of calling up the Action dialogue box and setting out a sequence of events. In my project, for example, I created buttons that make a slight click when the mouse pointer hovers over them and give a satisfying thud when they're pressed. Other possible actions include opening and printing files, launching external programs, and linking to URLs. Conditional branching and scoring functions are available too, making it easy to create a self-scoring quiz by simply assigning values to multiple choice answers on a list.



Illuminatus offers a simple interface to create multimedia presentations for the Web or CD-ROM

Actions can be set to trigger from the left or right mouse button, with a single or double click, or by moving the mouse cursor over or off an object.

When you've collected your resources into a set of smoothly linked pages, a click on the preview icon puts your production through its paces. When you're happy with the result, click Publish to roll it all into a single executable file ready to burn onto a CD-ROM, complete with an autorun.inf program launcher. Presentations can be converted to run in a Web browser, though a special plug-in viewer is required. And finally, if you read the small print you'll notice you can even use Illuminatus to produce multimedia Windows Screen Savers – neat.

If there's one glaring weakness, it's in the support the program offers for text-based publications. While Illuminatus scores full marks for making it easy to display formatted RTF files in scrolling text boxes on the screen, the limitations are immediately obvious when you want to do anything useful with the text. The Printing function, for example, only supports plain .txt format files, so it's impossible to print formatted documents. Worse, text can't be copied to the clipboard, and while it's possible to save files to disk, again, only plain text is supported. And rather than let me create a single template page which could display any of the selected text files in my project, each file required a specific display-page of its own.

Those reservations aside, Illuminatus offers most of the tools you'll need to create sophisticated multimedia projects. It's easy to use, and given the right dash of creative input, the results can be spectacular.

– Phil Campbell

Illuminatus 4.0
RRP: $299; Upgrade $150

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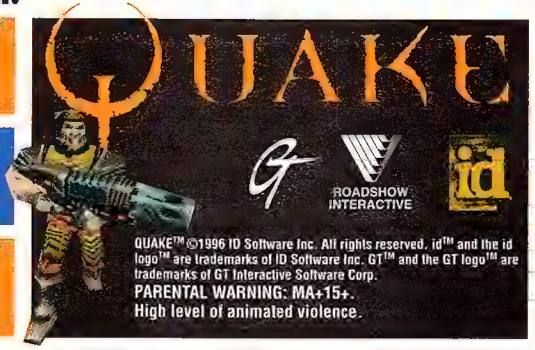
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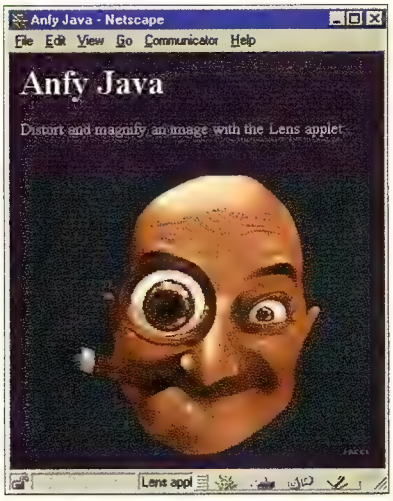
Anfy Java 1.0

FABIO's APPLETS

One glance at a Java code fragment will probably confirm the novice Web designer's perception that this is propeller-head territory. But even though programming skills are necessary to exploit the full power of Java, a number of tools are now available to help non-programmers take their first sips.



The Lens applet magnifies and distorts an image

Anfy Java is a collection of user-configurable Java applets that – in the words of its designer, Fabio Ciucci – add "a touch of magic to HTML pages". Most of these applets can be applied to any .gif or .jpg image to create a range of special effects, from 3D tunnels and wormholes to fractals, distortions and fades.

Ciucci doesn't provide much documentation, but a little experimentation soon reveals what the program can do. The opening dialogue box invites the user to select one of 26 applets. A short text description explains what each applet does, and a preview button displays it in your browser. Another click alters the applet's parameters, so you can see how it can be modified. Once you have selected an applet, Anfy Java presents a series of dialogue boxes which allow you to configure the applet's behaviour. You can choose an image, preset the speed or intensity of effects, and set font sizes and colours. If scrolling text is required, you can type it directly into a text field, or pull it in from a file.

Once configuration is complete, another preview button displays the results in your browser. If you don't like what you see, you can step back through the dialogue boxes and make any necessary changes. When the applet is working to your satisfaction, Anfy Java will copy the required .class files to the folder of your choice and create an HTML file. If you have already created the HTML page in another application, you can copy the new code to the Windows Clipboard and then paste it directly to the page.

If you choose not to pay for the software, a credits dialogue box is displayed whenever a user clicks on an Anfy Java image. A payment of $US20 disables this minor annoyance.

- Neville Clarkson

Anfy Java 1.0
Price: $US20
www.anfiteatro.it/javadev/appdownload.html

Submission Wizard

SUBMIT AND DOMINATE

You've just put up your brand new Web site for all the world to see and what happens? Nothing. Where are all the thousands of visitors? Chances are they don't even know you exist.

In order to have a site listed by a Web search engine, you have to register under an option usually called "Add URL". This typically involves going to the search engine's Web site, filling out details about your site, and then repeating the process for each search engine.

What if you could fill in a few details, press a button and it's all done for you? That's exactly the function of Submission Wizard, and it is that simple: fill in your details once, pick a category, select the search engines (up to 500) and away you go.

As a test, I set up the Submission Wizard to register an index page during the day with over 300 search engines – it took less than an hour. In the evening, this figure came down to 30 minutes. After the initial setup, Submission Wizard is fully automated, so it can be left to run overnight or during lunch. A print report will list successful postings, and if you update your site, then you can also use the program to resubmit your pages.

The interface is simple, although a little confusing at first. Instead of the normal menu across the top, it has a series of tabs running down the left-hand side that need to be completed in the correct order. The graphics need a little improvement: when the program starts, it looks as though sections of it are missing or corrupted. However, this is a Web site submission program and these imperfections have little impact on its ability to complete its job quickly and cheaply.

A few words of advice: many people get put on spam lists when they register a site with a search engine. This is because the details and e-mail address submitted often appear in a "what's new" category on search engine sites. If these are copied by spammers, you will be receiving e-mail in your grave. To avoid this problem, create a new e-mail address in HotMail (www.hotmail.com) and use this for your contact e-mail address when submitting your site details.

Also, be patient – search engines can take 6–8 weeks to include your site.

- Scott Mendham

Submission Wizard
Pros: Easy to install and use; cheaper than using a Web promotions company or other packages
Cons: Yahoo! will still require manual submission; saving site details is a little awkward
Price: Shareware; $40 for one-month registration
Aussie Cyberland
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www.freegoodies.com/wizard/

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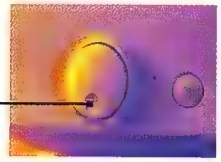

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Win 98: Start Me Up! (a bit slower)

There may be reasons to upgrade to Windows 98 but performance is not one of them

By Scott Spanbauer

Microsoft claims that starting your system, launching applications, and shutting down your system are all faster under the new version of Windows. We've found that only the second claim holds true: apps can launch in half the time. But your system will probably start slower, and shutting it down can take just as long or longer.

How do we know? Until now, our evaluations of the new operating system were based on prerelease beta versions. But we finally got our hands on the shipping code and now the numbers are in.

Windows 98's new Disk Defragmenter utility is the key to faster application launching. It monitors which applications you launch and how often, then reorganises program files on the disk for maximum launch speed. Because Windows loads applications in bits and pieces, it isn't enough just to organise files contiguously, as past defraggers have done. The new Disk Defragmenter watches to see which pieces of which applications are loaded most often. Then it fragments your program files accordingly, putting the most frequently used pieces in optimum order on the disk's outer edge to minimise time-consuming hard disk seeks.

Though defragging our 2GB drives took between 30 minutes and two hours (Windows 98 can perform the task unattended), the results were well worth the wait. The slowest-launching applications before optimisation — Adobe Photoshop 4.0, Corel Paradox 8.0, Netscape Navigator 4.04 and Picture Publisher 7 — loaded in roughly half the time after defragging. Programs that loaded quickly before the operation — specifically, two Microsoft Office 97 apps, Word and Excel — showed more modest gains. One caveat: we're talking seconds here, not minutes. Before optimising, Paradox took 14.49 seconds to load; afterwards, it took 6.86.

You should also note that these speedups occurred only when we were using the FAT32 file system. Introduced with Windows 95 OSR2, FAT32 is an optional feature in Windows 98; you have to invoke a special utility to convert your hard drive to it. Our advice: just use it. On FAT16 drives, optimising improved launch speed negligibly.

Converting to FAT32 has the added benefit of letting you squeeze tens or even

hundreds of extra megabytes from your disk. The reason: FAT16 uses 32KB clusters – meaning every file on your drive, no matter how small, takes up a minimum of 32KB. On most drives, FAT32 stores files in 4KB clusters. In our tests, converting a 2GB partition from FAT16 to FAT32 freed up 266MB of drive space that was previously occupied.

There's only one time you shouldn't use FAT32: when you've set up your PC to dual-boot with an operating system that can't read FAT32 partitions (meaning any OS but Windows 95 OSR2.x).

TURN ON, TURN OFF

The story was different when we turned our attention to start-up and shutdown times. Microsoft has claimed that both processes should be faster under Windows 98 than under Windows 95. Our tests don't bear out those claims.

The problem? In the case of start-up times, Microsoft's claims apply only to systems using something called a FastBoot BIOS. Developed jointly by Microsoft, Toshiba and Intel, the FastBoot BIOS spec should (as its name implies) help PCs start up faster. But at press time, no FastBoot systems were available for testing. And there's no telling when such systems will arrive. Until they do, you may see the initial BIOS boot portion of your start-up process drop a second or two. But those gains will be more than offset by the extra time it takes to load Windows 98 itself – the new OS simply has more stuff to load than its predecessor does; hence it takes longer to boot.

Microsoft also claims that Windows 98 shuts down faster, especially on networked systems. But we saw no such gains. On stand-alone systems, Windows 95 and Windows 98 shutdown times were virtually identical. On networked systems we found either no improvements or, in some cases, slowdowns.

Though Microsoft has improved Windows 98's performance in launching applications, you won't notice any difference in running those apps: when we compared the PC WorldBench 98 benchmark tests on

Fun and heavy stuff

Computers can't all be about work, there has to be time for fun and games. At least that's the spirit of Microsoft's Plus 98. Following in the tradition of Microsoft Plus for Windows 95, this new release provides a number of fun and functional enhancements for the Windows 98 OS. You may not want to roll it out to everyone in the company, but you might use it to score a few points with your boss.

Plus 98 includes a copy of Network Associates VirusScan for Win 98, and six months of upgrades for VirusScan. Also, Plus 98 includes a tool that automatically cleans up shortcuts with broken links from the Windows Start menu. Microsoft also provides a modified version of Windows 98's Maintenance Wizard.

Plus 98 also has a pretty cool feature called Compressed Folders, essentially zip files that appear as special folders on the desktop or through the Explorer shell. On the lighter side, Plus 98 includes a new set of add-ons for Windows 98.

A number of new desktop themes lend a new look to your Windows 98 desktop, including motifs from the Cathy, Garfield and Doonesbury cartoon strips.

My two favourite components of Plus 98 were the bundled Organic Art Screensaver from Computer Artworks and Microsoft Golf Lite. The Lite version of Microsoft Golf only has nine holes, but it beats Solitaire on a long flight home.

On a more serious note, if you're looking to move your organisation to Windows 98, you'll definitely want to pick up a copy of Microsoft's Windows 98 Resource Kit. Weighing in at more than 1700 pages, the Windows 98 Resource Kit is truly the definitive guide to getting inside Win 98. I used the resource kit fairly heavily throughout my testing with Windows 98. It really is an essential reference text for understanding some of the more advanced types of tasks that corporate customers in particular will want to perform with Win 98.

The Windows 98 Resource Kit has in-depth, technical coverage of various areas of the operating system that you won't find in end-user-style "how to" books. For example, there is strong coverage of both rapid deployment, using system policies, and the architecture of the OS. There are useful sections on the Win 98 registry, networking options and OS performance tuning.

The Windows 98 Resources Kit also comes with a good assortment of utilities on the accompanying CD. Some of the tools are fairly useful, such as the corporate deployment tools and Profile Manager, which lets administrators create Win 98 system policies. In addition, there are a few executables that provide basic functionality for use with the Windows Scripting Host in Win 98.

I liked that the Boot Manager tool let me quickly configure different elements of the Win 98 boot sequence. The resource kit also includes TweakUI, a popular tool that allows you quick access to key customisation elements of the Win 98 desktop and shell environment.

Microsoft bundles a few additional applications on the resource kit CD that add value to the package. For example, Intergraph's Imagination Engineer LE is a lightweight version of the company's technical diagramming package. In addition, Microsoft includes a couple of its new speech technology applications. I wasn't too excited about the speech technologies. But then, I'm not really ready for voice recognition. Or maybe it's not ready for me. ISBN 1-57231-644-6. Microsoft Australia, phone (02) 9870 2200, http://mspress.microsoft.com

- Jeff Symoens

Apps can launch in half the time, but your system will probably start slower, and shutting it down can take just as long

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Windows 98 and Windows 95 systems, the results were virtually the same.

To be fair, no existing performance test, PC WorldBench 98 included, will demonstrate Win 98's most significant performance enhancement: MapCache promises to use the disk cache and system memory more efficiently, thereby reducing the need for virtual memory and its time-consuming reads from the swap file on your hard drive. This should be particularly helpful when you're multitasking or otherwise taxing memory.

For MapCache to work, however, your executable files (those that run when you launch an application or Windows itself) must first be internally reorganised into 4KB segments. Unfortunately, no applications — including those used in PC WorldBench 98 — have yet been rewritten to work with MapCache. Only after developers start compiling their software with the 4KB boundary requirement in mind (and you upgrade your software) will you see any benefit from MapCache.

OVERWEIGHT

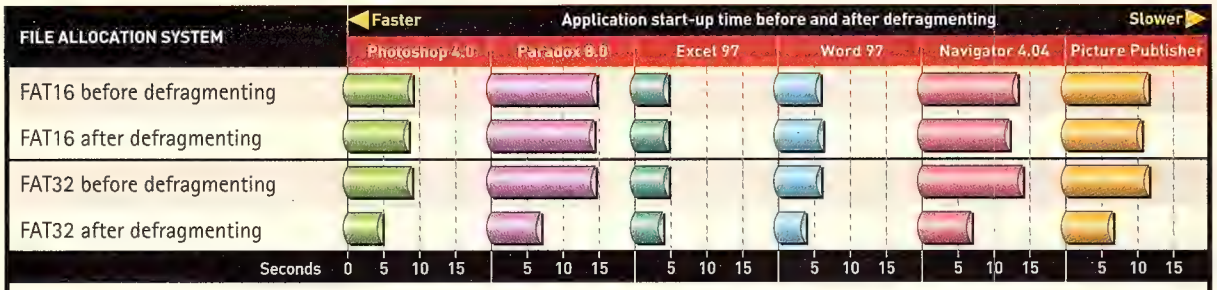
One more finding we recorded in the course of our performance testing: thanks to all its new utilities, doodads like WebTV and the integration of the Internet Explorer 4.0 Web browser, this new operating system chews up plenty of disk space.

When installed on an empty hard disk, Windows 98 takes up about as much space on your drive — roughly 160MB — as Windows 95 OSR2.5 does. But you're more likely to install Windows 98 over Windows 95, and that's when the megabytes really start adding up. Depending on your installation options, you could be talking 300MB.

You also have to consider how much free space Win 98 requires during installation, when it creates all sorts of temporary files and (optionally) backs up your old Win 95 installation. Our tests suggest that you'll need from 120MB to 200MB of free space. That might be okay for those of us with multigigabyte drives, but if you've got an old 500MB drive, Win 98 could be a good reason for replacing it.

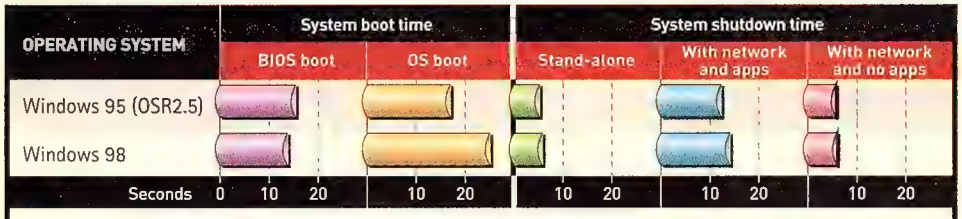
As we said in last month's feature-set review, Windows 98's advanced features — Universal Serial Bus support, browser-style file management, a customisable taskbar, Outlook Express — make it a worthwhile upgrade for many users. But beyond speedier application launching, don't expect it to solve your performance problems.

Windows 98: Defragger helps open apps more quickly



HOW WE TEST We compare the application launch times before and after application start-up optimisation. We open applications from the Start menu and measure the time from when we press <Enter> to when the application is fully loaded and ready for use. We average the results of three trials. After running System Tuneup (WinAlign) and deleting existing application launch log files, we optimise application start-up by launching each application 10 times. We then run Disk Defragmenter. We repeat the application launch tests three more times and average the results.

Windows 98 drags its feet at StartUp



HOW WE TEST We measure BIOS boot time from power-up until execution of a pause command placed into autoexec.bat. We then measure operating system boot time from that pause to the opening of a DOS window in the StartUp group. We average the results of three trials. To measure shutdown time, we wait for all system activity to finish, then click on the Start button and select Shut Down. We time from when we click the OK button to when either the system shutdown splash screen appears or the computer powers off (if equipped with power-management auto shutdown). We repeat the tests three times and average the results. We repeat the shutdown tests three more times with the system connected to an NT server.

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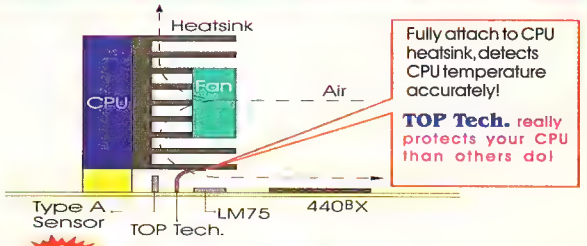

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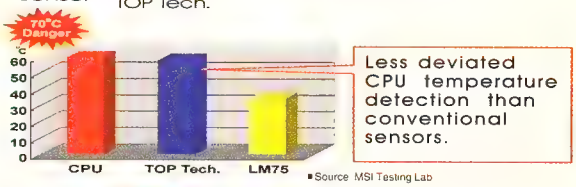

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Software CPU Cooling Device

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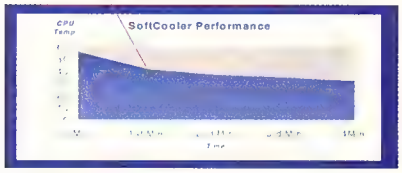
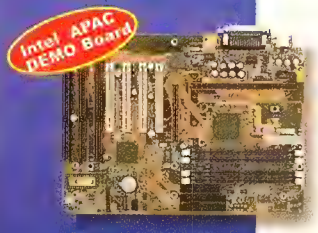
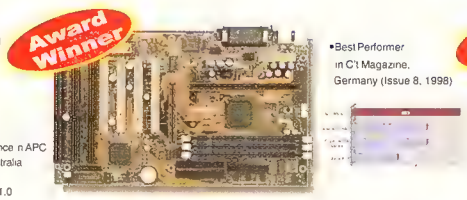
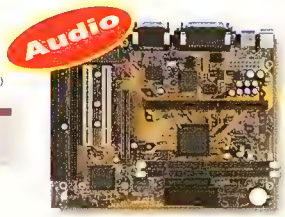




- Best Performer in ASCII DOS/V Magazine, Japan (June, 1998)
- Best Performance in APC Magazine, Australia (July, 1998) (WinBench 98 1.0 CPUmark32)



- Best Performer in C't Magazine, Germany (Issue 8, 1998)



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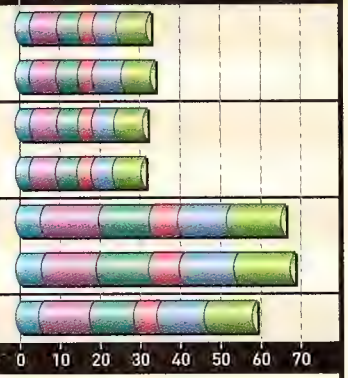
Running apps, the speed's the same

SYSTEM	CPU	Operating system	RAM (MB)	PC World-Bench 98 score
Dell Optiplex GXa	Pentium II-233	Win 95 OSR2.5	32	131
Dell Optiplex GXa	Pentium II-233	Win 98	32	128
Dell Optiplex GXa	Pentium II-233	Win 95 OSR2.5	64	136
Dell Optiplex GXa	Pentium II-233	Win 98	64	133
Dell Dimension XPS P133c	Pentium-133	Win 95 OSR2.5	16	66
Dell Dimension XPS P133c	Pentium-133	Win 98	16	63
Dell Dimension XPS P133c	Pentium-133	Win 98	32	75



HOW WE TEST All systems are tested with US PC WorldBench 98, an application-based benchmark. A higher PC WorldBench 98 score is better.

Try it yourself!

Are you keen to get your hands on Windows 98 and try it out for yourself? Here's the best way of doing it: we'll give away a copy of Microsoft Windows 98 and the Microsoft Plus Pack to the four entries we consider do the best job of answering this question:

Windows 98's codename was "Memphis", which also happens to be the home town of Elvis. If the King was alive today — not that he's necessarily dead — what would he say about Microsoft's latest operating system?

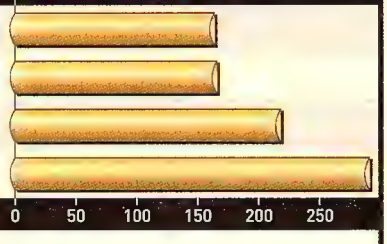
E-mail your entries to **pcworld@idg.com.au** or mail to **Windows 98 Comp, PC World, PO Box 295, St Leonards NSW 2065 Australia.**

Send your Elvisian wisdom to us by August 31 and we'll publish the winners in our October issue.

Good luck!

Win 98 vs Win 95: how much room do you need?

INSTALLATION TYPE	Hard disk space used
Fresh formatted hard disk, typical Win 95 OSR2.5 install	
Fresh formatted hard disk, typical Win 98 install	
Win 98 upgrade over Win 95 OSR2.5, without saving old system files	
Win 98 upgrade over Win 95 OSR2.5, saving old system files	



HOW WE TEST We install Windows 95 OSR2.5 (including Internet Explorer 4.0 and desktop integration) with the FAT16 file system and all applications used in PC WorldBench 98 and our application launch tests, and we measure the hard disk space used. We again measure the space used after upgrading the system to Windows 98, using the Typical Install option. We then run the FAT32 conversion utility included in Windows 98 and measure the hard disk a third time.

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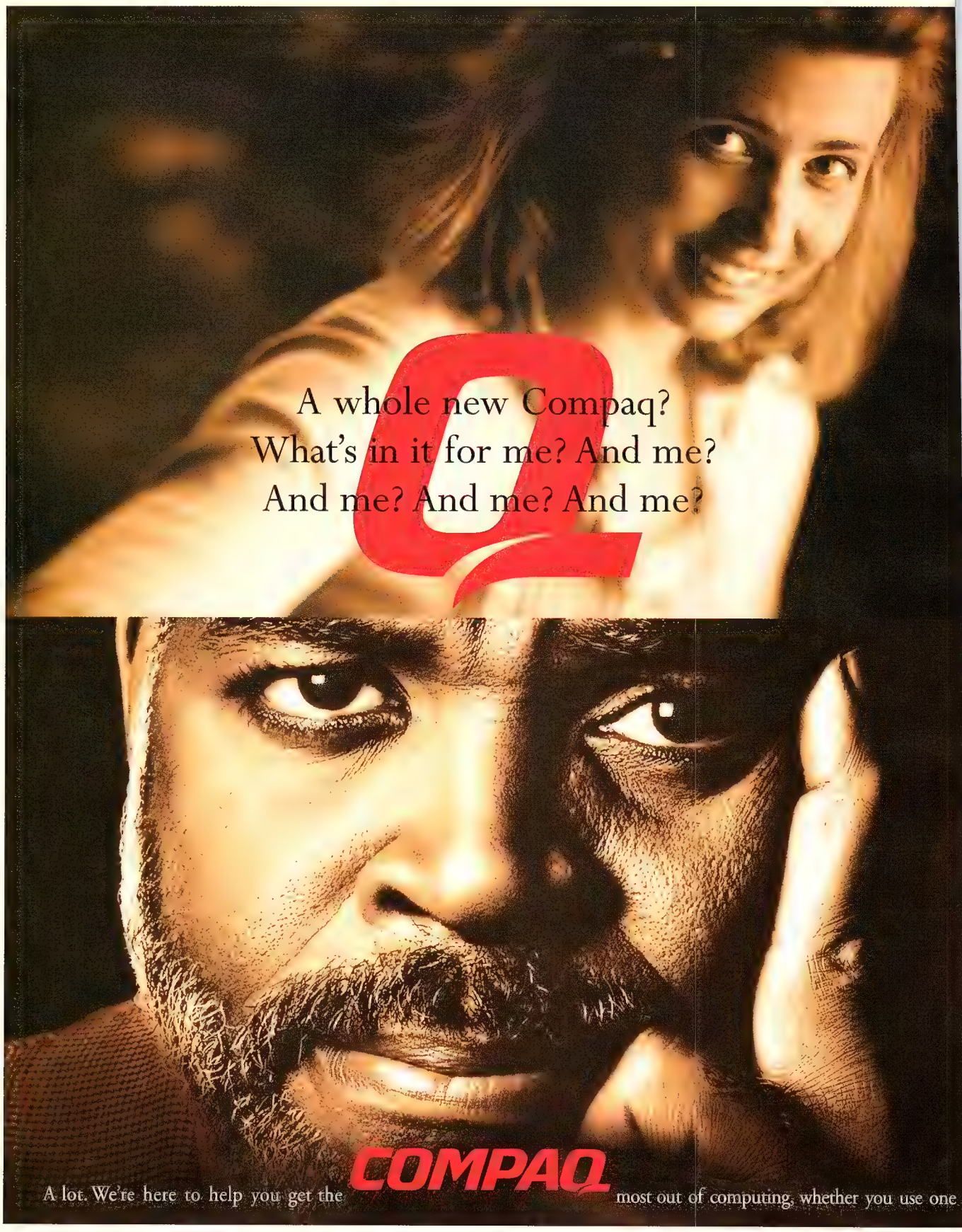
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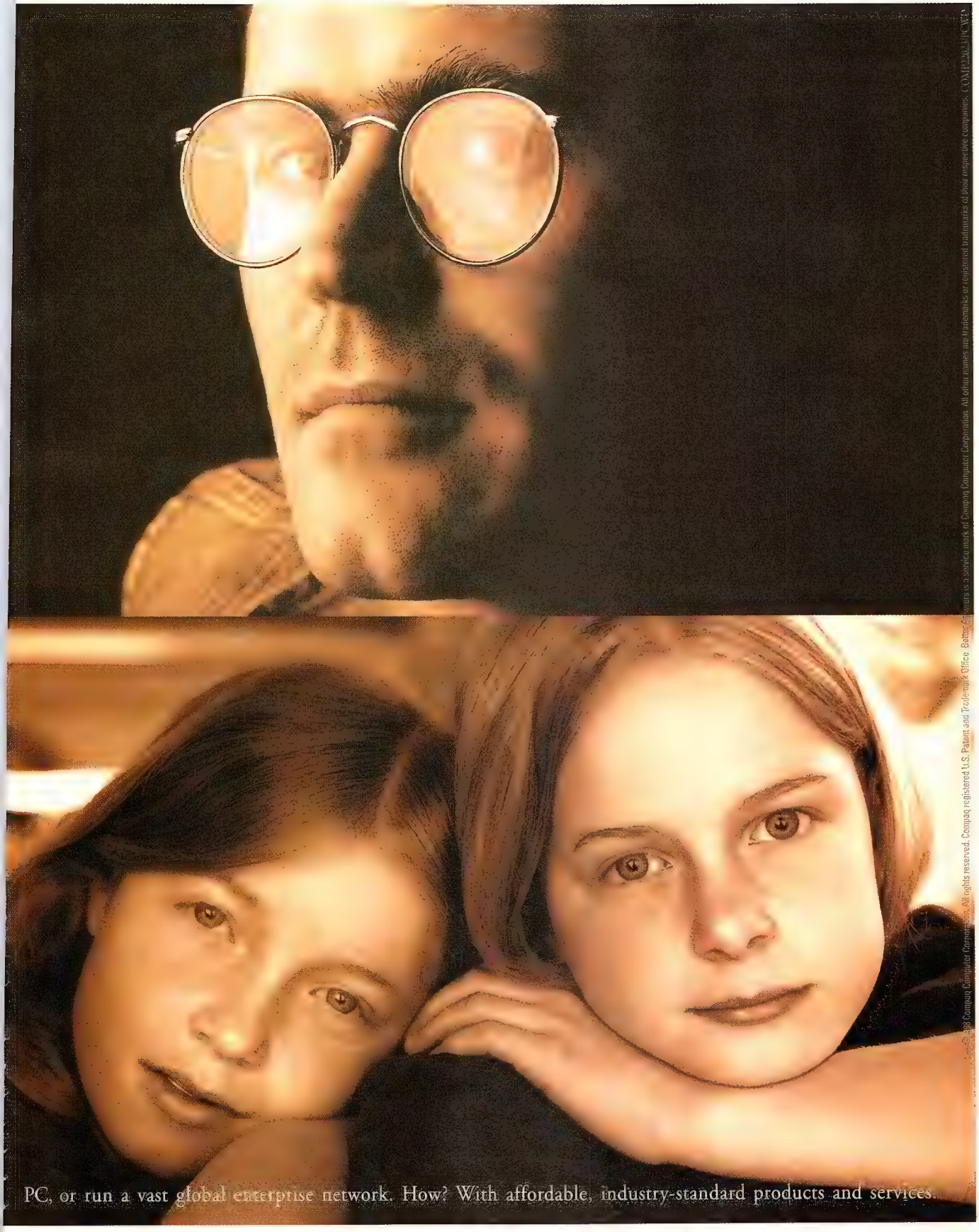

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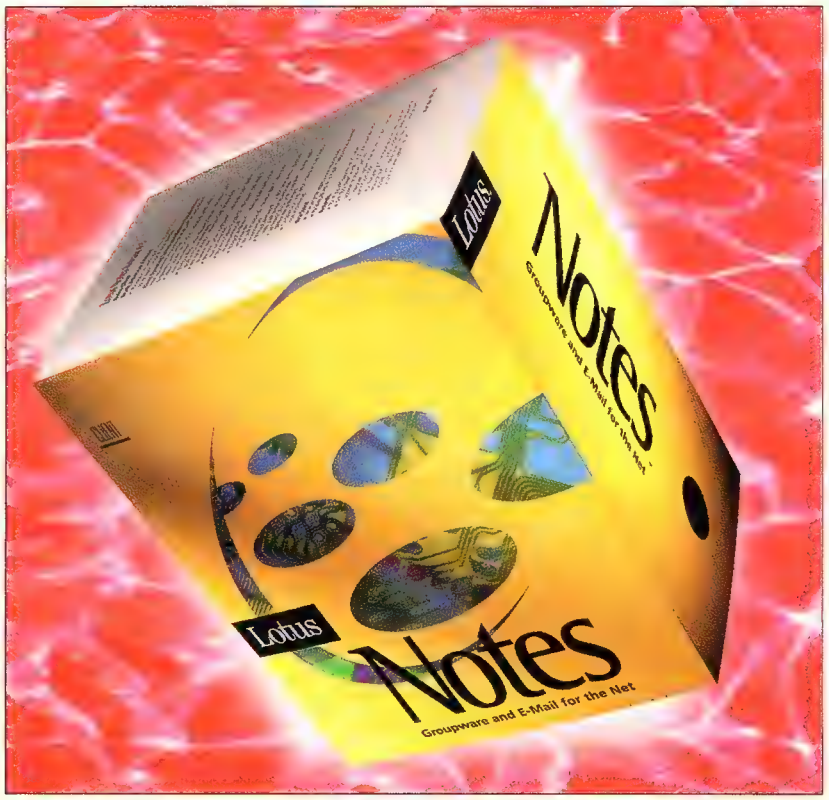
Preview

NOTES 5 ON THE WAY

Like the rest of the software world, the next release of Notes borrows from the Web

By Harry McCracken

Time may be running out for e-mail software as we know it. Blame its demise on the emergence of integrated groupware programs like Lotus Notes, Microsoft Outlook 98, and Netscape's upcoming Communicator 5, which meld a browserlike interface with e-mail, scheduling and basic file management. Until now, Notes — the product that pioneered this concept more than a decade ago — has been awkward to use. But all that may be about to change. The next version of Notes, Release 5, will feature an improved interface, designed to address navigation and usability issues.



Groupware packages let you perform multiple tasks without having to hop between disparate applications. But Notes' proprietary interface has long flouted many Windows navigation conventions, creating undue confusion. The new Notes interface should make the product much easier to use and more consistent with current Windows applications. Notes' core is its support for replicable, highly customisable databases.

Lotus plans to ship the upgrade late this year, and a beta version of R5 should be available as a download from the company's Web site by the end of July. The final version will probably cost about the same as the current version — the latest pricing for the client is $116 for a single seat, with Domino, the server-software component of Notes' groupware system, selling at $2765. There are volume discounts, and different versions for mail-only and developer environments; call Lotus on 1800 252 408 for more information.

Even if you're a newcomer to Notes or LAN-based e-mail, you may find that the revamped product deserves serious consideration. Like Outlook, Notes R5 can act as both a stand-alone Internet e-mail client and a personal information manager.

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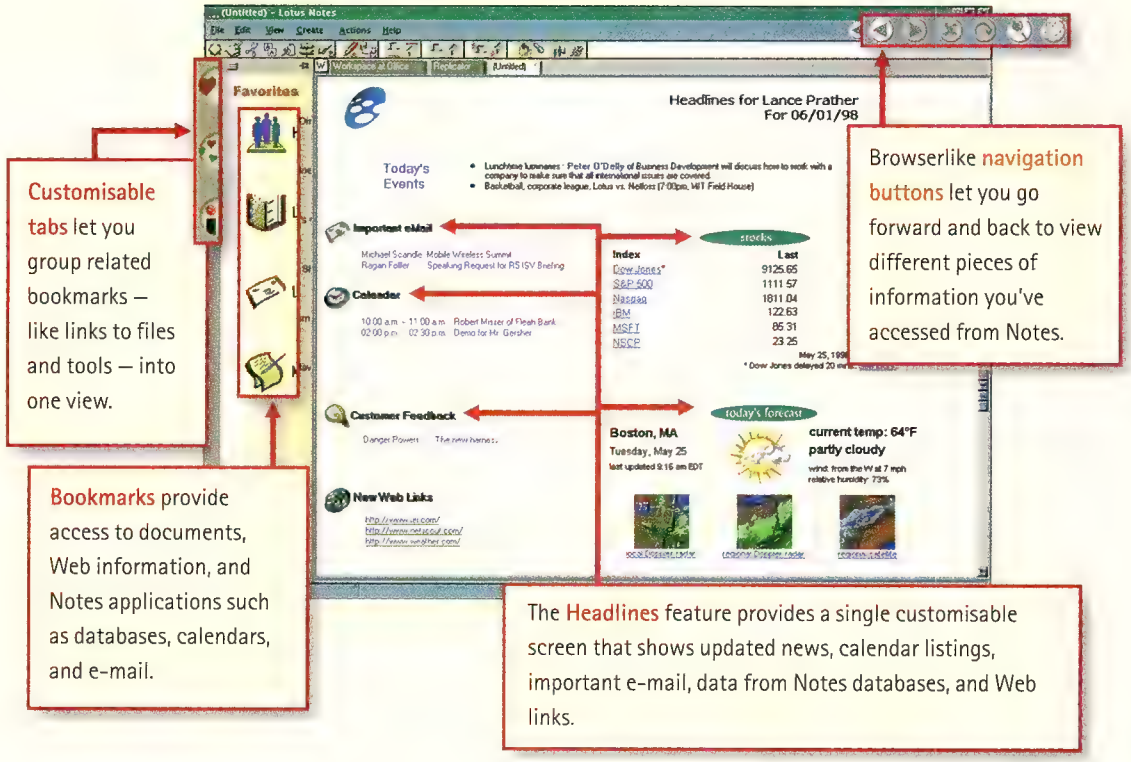
Notes' new navigation features

To make Notes easier to use, Lotus added a variety of features. This screen shot is based on prerelease code and subject to modifications.



TAKING A PAGE FROM THE WEB

Notes R5's interface borrows liberally from the Web. The first thing you see when you launch the application is Headlines, a Web-style at-a-glance tool that resembles Outlook 98's Outlook Today feature. Headlines gives you a single-screen view of news headlines, a daily meetings summary, and even direct links to critical e-mail messages (such as those sent by people you designate as important, like your boss). You navigate through Headlines and other Notes sections by single-clicking and using the Back and Forward buttons.

Like a browser, Notes R5 lets you use bookmarks to organise vital information for easy access. But Lotus says that its bookmarks can link to just about anything: Web sites; Notes databases; mail folders; and folders and documents on your PC's hard disk or on a network server. That's not a new idea — Outlook does much the same thing already, and Netscape's Communicator 5 promises a similarly holistic approach. Still, it represents a boon to die-hard Notes users who'd like to use the application as a home base throughout their workday.

In addition, Lotus plans to beef up Notes' capabilities in knowledge management, a fancy way of describing search tools that collate information from far-flung sources both on and off the Web. If you enter a keyword, Notes can launch your Web browser and search Yahoo, your company's Notes databases, and even documents on your hard disk before returning a single list of documents ranked according to their relevancy.

E-MAIL MAKEOVER

E-mail remains the central workgroup application for most users, and Lotus plans to introduce some long-overdue refinements to Notes' often-frustrating mail features.

The changes aren't revolutionary; in fact, many are basic niceties that users of other packages have enjoyed for years. For example, when you're one of umpteen recipients of an e-mail message, Notes R5 won't flood your screen with dozens of e-mail addresses, an annoyance that forces you to scroll extensively to reach the body of the message. Instead, the list of addressees appears in a small, scrollable window. The company also aims to streamline basic jobs such as addressing e-mail and deleting or archiving messages, and R5 enables you to exchange richly formatted messages with users of HTML-capable e-mail packages, such as Microsoft's and Netscape's clients. (HTML support lets you embed a photograph in a message, among other things.)

The major goal of R5's group-scheduling features is to bring this capability up to the standards set by current stand-alone PIMs, such as Lotus's own Organizer. Lotus says that the group scheduling will have a less cluttered, more customisable look, and that scheduling tasks will be simpler. You'll be able to print out your schedule in a variety of formats, such

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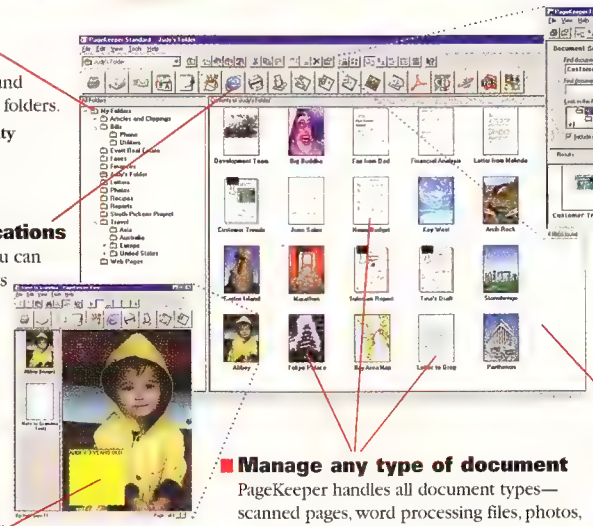

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as a pocket-size trifold or one that fits into a Franklin Day Planner. Again, these additions aren't groundbreaking, but they should appeal to any Notes user who now juggles a group scheduler in Notes with a personal calendar in a stand-alone PIM.

Lotus continues to add features to please big-company IS staffers. For example, Lotus will add features to help organisations move to Notes from other e-mail packages, including its own cc:Mail. In any case, most cc:Mail users will eventually move to Notes or one of its competitors, since Lotus plans not to release any major upgrades to that venerable e-mail system.

In May this year Lotus acquired DataBeam, a maker of real-time document-sharing software, and Ubique, a maker of online chat software. The products might appear in Notes R5 or be offered as add-on modules.

Notes R5: New look, more features

Where to find it	What's new
Throughout the program	Browser-style navigation; revamped menus and dialogues; more Windows conventions such as drag and drop and right-mouse clicks.
E-mail	Refined user interface; fancier formatting options; enhanced HTML support; easier tools for creating rules for mail handling; LDAP directory searching.
Group scheduling	Streamlined look; more customisable calendar views; better printing; quicker performance.
Databases	No changes announced at press time.
Other tools	Bookmarks for documents, databases, Web sites, and more; unified search tools for the Web, Notes databases, and other data sources.

If your company uses a stand-alone e-mail product like cc:Mail, you may want to consider an integrated product like Notes R5.

But switching e-mail systems is complicated. And though the core networking technology for Notes has been around for years, the new interface has not been battle-tested. We'll reserve final judgment until we can do hands-on testing. But if the improvements pan out, Notes R5 could establish itself as a must-have upgrade for current users and an attractive option for anyone seeking a groupware package with calendaring, scheduling and collaboration features. ■

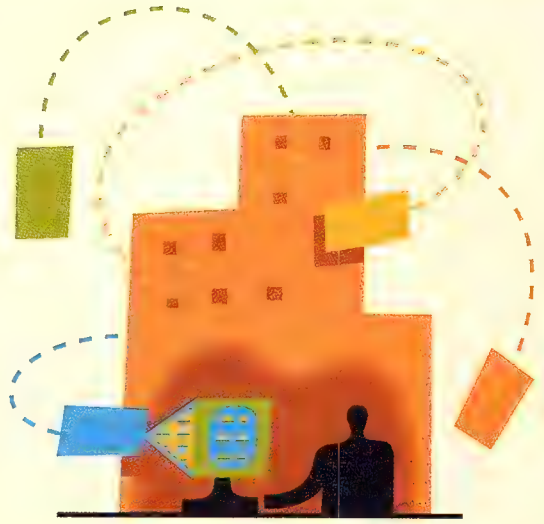
Next GroupWise boosts doc and calendar

If neither Lotus Notes nor Microsoft Exchange meets your collaborative needs, you have other options. Netscape's Communicator is making strides as a groupware tool, and Novell isn't about to give up the enterprise turf it helped pioneer: the company's next upgrade to GroupWise (version 5.5, due out by the end of the year) boasts sophisticated document-sharing features, improved calendar tools, and the ability to collaborate seamlessly with any other GroupWise organisation over the Internet.

GroupWise 5.5's document-sharing and management capabilities should appeal to firms that handle a large number of documents — law firms and researchers, for example. The upgrade will maintain a full-text index of all shared documents, which users can easily search by keyword or other attribute (such as author or category). If you work on documents remotely, you'll appreciate the dynamic syncing feature, which automatically records changes to all copies — regardless of where you're working — whenever the file is saved. Similarly, GroupWise 5.5 can generate HTML versions of documents as you save them, for instant publishing to the Internet or a corporate intranet.

On the calendar front, GroupWise 5.5 lets managers view and change several workers' schedules at once.

Finally, you'll be happy to know that GroupWise 5.5 extends its groupware features to any other GroupWise



user on the Internet, without requiring any special effort by you. So if you e-mail a meeting invitation to a person or persons on another network that also uses GroupWise, the message will behave as if it had been sent internally, adding a note to the recipients' calendar if they accept. If the recipients don't have GroupWise, the invitation will look and behave like a normal e-mail. Release 3 of the beta version is now available. Novell Australia, phone 1800 244 364, www.novell.com.au

- *Yardena Arar*

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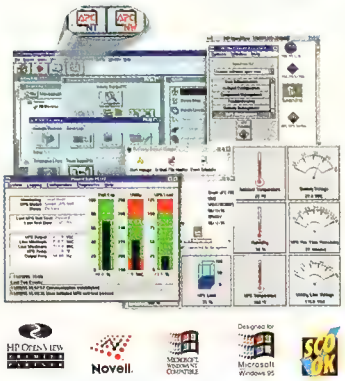

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Whatever happened to THIN clients?

At the height of their hype, thin-client computers were giving the Wintel empire quite a shake. Now that the hype has subsided, the thin revolution continues

By Sue Bushell

Once upon a time, antibiotic therapy was hailed as a panacea for microbial infections, the Pill as the agent of free love for all, and thin-client computing as the harbinger of death for the PC.

We wish. Widespread use of antibiotics hasn't stopped 17 million people dying every year from infectious disease, and the spectre of HIV/AIDS has taught the children of the Children of the Revolution a conservatism that can border on the paranoid.

As for thin-client computing (TC computing), analysts now agree that the once fervently proclaimed notion that network computers (NC) would bury PCs altogether is looking rather feeble. Proponents might have got the technology right but their psychology wasn't so hot – the simple fact is that given any kind of choice at all, most power users would rather give up work altogether than surrender their beloved PCs.

But don't go into mourning for TC computing just yet. There are many users for whom the TC model is ideal, and this is the year it is showing real signs of coming into its own.

According to international research organisation IDC, 1998 is proving to be the make-or-break year for TC technology after a very disappointing 1997. The company predicts the worldwide business market for thin clients will climb to 6.8 million units in 2002, up from 507,000 in 1998. And it anticipates Microsoft's endorsement of Windows-Based Terminals (WBT) will cause some markets to ponder whether

WBTs together with multi-user Windows application servers might not be a better deal than Pentium PCs for delivering Windows applications to some users.

If you want to know why thin clients have done so badly so far, IDC is prepared to point a few fingers.

"The principal inhibitor to development (of the thin-client segment) was the FUD (fear, uncertainty and doubt) factor that was erected by Intel and Microsoft regarding the NetPC versus the NC," the company says.

"It is IDC's opinion that this FUD factor resulted in the loss of six months of potential TC shipments."

Gartner Group analyst Rolf Jester agrees the prospects are now stronger in certain markets for TC and ultra-TC, particularly amongst small-to-medium enterprises unwilling to put a PC on every desk because of the cost.

"There is a potential for thin clients or ultra-thin clients, and there's going to be a bit of a battle in the marketplace. But take-up by companies has not been overwhelming at this point and the research says over the next few years people are seeing them essentially as replacing dumb terminals, rather than knocking PCs off their pedestals."

Jester says that the TC phenomenon is about to hit the bottom of what Gartner likes to call the "hype cycle". That puts it at the point the company calls the "trough of disillusionment", where buyers accept the technology is not all that the hype has made it out to be, then begin to consider where it might in fact fit within the organisation.

"We think over the next two to five years people will begin to put them in where a PC is totally inappropriate," Jester said. "If you've got 1000 users sitting there doing repetitive tasks, they really don't need PCs," he said.

Even Sun marketing director Don Lowe concedes thin clients won't replace PCs for everyone.

"People who genuinely need a PC to run Microsoft Office suite are going to have one for a long time," Lowe said. "We think of the thin client as having a role in businesses where people are running a single application — some sort of business-critical application — and may occasionally need some office productivity. If it's the reverse they will go with a PC."

'The FUD factor resulted in the loss of six months of potential TC shipments'

Lowe says the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, where TCs are being used at the strong desk interface with customers but other users still have PCs, illustrates the point nicely. And he insists TCs also have widespread future application as point of sale terminals, in call centres, in banking and elsewhere.

"But are we going to have a bunch of people that used to use Microsoft Word and Excel replace that with a thin client? Probably not."

WHAT IS A THIN CLIENT?

NCs, NetPCs, Windows terminals (Citrix WinFrame and Microsoft Hydra) and Direct Connect technologies all fall under the thin-client umbrella, with their common promise of a drastic reduction in the total cost of ownership via reduced maintenance and support costs, lower bandwidth requirements and cheaper hardware. That's because they all share the thin-client characteristic of a small operating system (hence the term thin), although their capabilities can be quite robust.

NCs are low-cost, highly scalable devices based on the Java framework and supporting a rich GUI environment. NCs are server-neutral, in the sense that some of the NC's processing is done on the server and some on the client via a Java Virtual Machine (JVM).

IDC believes because most of the data accessed by the NC is resident on a server or host, the NC is not as "totally robust" as a desktop PC. Nonetheless, users can browse the Internet, send e-mail or compose documents that can be saved on the server from their NC by downloading applets for local use and connecting to applications that reside on servers. All applications and data remain on the host when the NC is turned off. Usually dependent on an IP-based network, NCs can also offer stand-alone functionality.

Keen to boost take-up of NCs, IBM, Intel, Oracle and Sun are rushing to develop a future version of an IBM Network Station running JavaOS for Business, which they hope will attract corporate network managers to thin-client platforms. The high-end Network Station should be released in the first half of 1999, and will conform to both Intel's Lean Client specification and the Network Computer Reference Profile.

According to Gartner Group, NCs, which it says will essentially replace dumb terminals in their early years, can expect a high rate of growth this year

IBM's Network Station — lowering the cost of network management by over 30 per cent

but will still equate to less than 2 per cent of devices in 1998 and just 7.7 per cent in 2003. The research group believes Java-based NCs will have enough benefits for users so that by 2003, 60 per cent of enterprises will deploy Windows terminals and Java computers across a discrete set of users.

Nonetheless, 90 per cent of business users will still use a network-independent PC as their primary computing device.

Then there's the NetPC, a standardised, sealed case computer for corporate computing that typically comes without removable media, like a floppy drive or CD-ROM. NetPCs dramatically reduce cost of ownership because they can only be set up remotely, and users can't fiddle around with their setup. Some government departments were saving a mint on such diskless PCs long before the name NetPC had even been coined.

NetPCs benefit from distributed software-based methodologies and management systems, such as Microsoft's Zero Administration for Windows (ZAW) Initiative and Systems Management Server (SMS), that allow for automatic application installation from a central location.

Then there are Windows-Based Terminals, which differ from NCs in being totally Windows NT server-centric and in performing no local processing, instead accessing and running applications solely from an NT server. The Windows Terminal model is currently based on a set of technologies developed by Citrix Systems, including Citrix WinFrame, a multi-user operating system that is an extension to Microsoft NT Server. That means WinFrame can support the execution of Win32, Win16, DOS, OS/2 1.x (text only) and POSIX applications. There's also Multi-Win, which gives a Windows NT server multi-user capabilities.

In WBT-style computing, the WinFrame server executes the applications on behalf of the clients and only passes I/O (screen and keyboard) information to the WBT.

Australian distributor Stone Microsystems, a Citrix OEM partner, has just announced support for Citrix' new MetaFrame thin-client/server software for Windows NT Server 4.0. Stone's ultra-thin client is based around an interface card in a server to which up to four users connect a keyboard, mouse and monitor. There can be four cards in each server and the direct cable connection to the desktop can be up to 80 metres away.

Meanwhile Microsoft's long-awaited thin-client initiative, launched in June, is Windows NT 4.0 Terminal Server Edition, which lets users run 32-bit Windows applications on PCs by accessing them from the server via Microsoft's proprietary Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP).

Finally there is Direct Connect delivery, involving the connection of multiple sets of low-cost and simple terminal clients (currently up to four per card) to a Workgroup host PC. This model is sometimes referred to as "Ultra-Thin".

Under the Direct Connect model, each client's desk contains a station base which provides ports to connect at least a monitor, keyboard and mouse, and which may offer additional I/O ports. Cabling from the adapter to the client varies from one supplier to the next, with cabling distances of up to 330 feet.

With major vendors now choosing sides, IT managers are left to sort out the relative merits of each thin-client architecture.

Citrix MetaFrame for Microsoft NT Server 4.0

Suggested retail pricing is $8325 for a 15-user licence. Additional licences can be purchased: $1655 for extra five users; $3315 for extra 10; $6635 for extra 25; and $16,625 for an extra 50 users. A licensed version of Windows NT Server 4.0, Terminal Server Edition is a prerequisite. Specialised MetaFrame packages are also available; contact Citrix on (02) 9980 0800 for more information and to locate a reseller. www.citrix.com/thinvillage

CUTTING TCO

One of the strongest arguments for thin-client technologies relates to a measure known as total cost of ownership (TCO), which can be terrifyingly high for a corporate PC when factors like downtime, support and applications upgrade costs are all factored in (see our TCO feature in the June 1998 issue of PC World).

The Yankee Group and IDC estimated an NC or network PC could cost about $US3000 less per year to own and operate than a traditional PC, thanks to lower-cost client hardware and anticipated savings from less application administration. Sun and IBM, who have been shipping NCs (the Java Station and Network Station respectively) since last year, claim NCs lower the cost of network management by 30 to 40 per cent.

But since cost is only one of the factors at play, even that potential for saving doesn't make the thin-client model right for every potential user.

"Power users are never going to give up their desktop (computer), and nor does this model suit them at all," concedes Conexus sales and marketing director Mark Daley. His company became the master distributor for NCD products in Australia early this year, including the Explora range of thin clients, WinCenter multi-user Windows NT server software, and PC-Xware software that delivers PC access to Unix and multi-user NT.

Nonetheless, Daley claims, government clients; companies with staff who do a lot of processing work, warehousing or inventory management; and schools and universities are all potential big buyers of thin-client computing.

"This model is for people that are doing a lot of processing work, including account system type work, document processing, warehousing and inventory management. It is also getting a lot of interest from schools and universities because of the reduced cost of ownership and hardware cost, and the fact that they only need to upgrade the server down the track, not the desktops.

"You go into school lab where they may be 30 or 40 kids, and maintenance is a big issue," Daley said. "This thing, they can't break it, it comes with a browser, they print to a central printer and the applications reside on a central server so there are no problems with local licensing."

'It's the opportunity for a company to have that traditional mini computer again'

Conexus claims it has seeded "a good few units" of thin clients into Australia that there is a "tremendous buzz" in the community about the technology and that sales should soar now that Microsoft has finally released Windows NT 4.0 Terminal Server Edition.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Stone Microsystems sales and marketing executive Inaki Gonzalez says that while the company isn't yet "selling heaps" of the Windows Terminal technology, resellers are loving it because they can pitch it to small-to-medium enterprises as a way to avoid having to employ a network guru.

"It's kind of like 'Back to the Future'," Gonzalez says.

"It's the opportunity for a company to have that traditional mini computer again that was all taken care of by an outsourced reseller and all they had to do internally was backup. But they can

The NC is dying of OS/2-itis

The network computer is dying of OS/2-itis and neglect. How do I know? For one thing, I'm now out of a job as editor in chief of NC World — the Web-based magazine has closed its proverbial doors.

No, I am not labouring under the grandiose illusion that the fate of the network computer rested on NC World. I doubt if the demise of the magazine will amount to much more than a ripple. But it is symptomatic of why the NC as we know it is likely to die.

In order to explain, I'm afraid I'll have to ask you to permit me to do a little boasting. NC World was actually wildly successful from an editorial perspective. The growth rate of NC World was nothing less than phenomenal. NC World more than quintupled its readership in less than a year. The new-subscriber rate was climbing steadily. On good days, it attracted more new subscribers than JavaWorld, and JavaWorld has far more daily visitors. That's astounding for a new market category that is taking so long to build up steam. NC World reader approval and response rates were equally phenomenal.

Despite this success, NC World died from lack of vendor interest.

The very vendors who have been preaching the network-computing vision — Sun, Oracle, IBM, Network Computer, Wyse, Neoware, Motorola, Citrix, Tektronix and the long list of smaller vendors — weren't interested enough in the future of NCs to answer our plea to save the single publication that produces original material to defend their vision and support those who adopt the technology. And, as I said, NC World achieved it with outstanding success.

The fall of NC World is simply endemic to a much larger problem. It manifests itself everywhere in the press, too. When Larry Ellison recently equated a browser-based PC with an NC, some of the trade press latched onto the statement as a signal that the NC is dead.

Here's the clincher. When that story was published, did Ellison call a press conference to undo the damage? Did he phone up the publications and demand a retraction? Bill Gates would have, and he would have gotten it. That's why, chances are, you're running Windows.

And that's why I call the problem OS/2-itis. Regardless of whether OS/2 is installed on any computers today, the press beat OS/2 into oblivion with the death certificates it issued twice a year, every year, year after year. But don't blame the press. Even when OS/2 actually had a chance to skunk Windows 95, IBM couldn't be bothered to develop, promote and defend it. What we got instead — Windows 95 — was good enough.

The NC is the new OS/2. I, personally, still believe platform-neutral network computing is our inevitable future. But I now suspect it will have to wait until Microsoft "invents" it by morphing the Windows-based Terminal into an NC that runs on Visual Basic byte code. Analysts will, of course, gush over the innovative concept as a solution to runaway cost of ownership. It won't be as robust as a Java NC, but it will be good enough.

And when your Microsoft NC crashes, don't blame Microsoft. Or the press. Instead, blame those companies who couldn't be bothered when the Java-based NC vision had a chance.

- Nicholas Petreley

→

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still do all their Windows applications and that is a very attractive option."

And certainly MUA Pty Limited thinks so. MUA is a reseller that decided, shortly after taking on Citrix WinFrame, that it would be ideal for its own customer tracking and help desk systems. The reseller has now been using WinFrame internally for several months, with PCs in Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane connected to large WinFrame servers running in its Sydney head office.

"The way it operates is that the application for all of those services that we want to run – the help desks and our customer tracking systems and all those types of services – are all running on a single server here. The images of the application are running on PCs that are running on people's desks in Perth and Melbourne and Brisbane, but no data flies backwards and forwards between the server and the individual PCs," said managing director Paul McQuarrie.

"Now the actual cost savings of putting in a network like that are not as obvious when you just add up the cost of the WinFrame software and the costs of putting in a big server to run the application in head office. The real savings come from being able to administer the one server that is going to run the applications from a single location, without having to go and individually configure 50 or 60 PCs to be able to run the client end of the software."

And that's not to mention the massive bandwidth savings that the company is reaping. McQuarrie says the cost of a full client/server approach to providing the same functionality to users, with the application running across a WAN, would amount to between $100,000 and $200,000 a year. Instead, MUA runs its whole setup for around $50,000 a year, because it can afford to run on 64Kbps links between branches, rather than 256Kbps.

For its clients, MUA claims to be selling about five new WinFrame enterprise operating systems a day, and says, all up, between 100 and 150 new users a day are being turned on to WinFrame around Australia.

Also using WinFrame is the National Safety Council. National IT manager Peter Bright says the body's smallish Australia-wide TC network comprises a WinFrame server, a WinView server (an earlier version of the WinFrame system) and 16 offices around Australia that use that server from time to time. Rather than being logged on all the time, staff access the server as required for data entry into various applications, internal file transfer and other functions. PCs connected to the server range from old 386s to the latest Pentiums, all accessing the system via a standard phone line.

"We never did go into any other type of system, so I have no figures on savings," Bright said. "I was looking for a cost-effective way of doing what I want to do, and suddenly this thing appeared on the horizon and I saw immediately it was the sort of thing I wanted."

While pleased with the solution, Bright said some users – particularly those using Pentium PCs – find the system a little bit slow.

Over at Email Kitchen and Bathroom products, they've taken a different path to TC, via the Java-based NC camp. Information systems manager Gary Rankin says the company implemented 25 Network Stations with Lotus e-Suite in its Call Centre, partly to achieve cost of ownership savings but mostly in the interest of ease of support.

"We figured if we went with the standard Windows-based client in our call centre, I would have to hire one more PC support person who would be dedicated to the Call Centre. We also felt a Windows-based PC was less stable than the network station, and because every unit in the Call Centre is a critical point, we felt the Network Station was a better fit.

"But it was a matter of fit for functionality as well. A standard Windows client PC is quite functionally rich. A standard green screen is not as rich. And we thought for the Call Centre, the need for rich functionality was not that well defined," Rankin said.

The company uses a 5250 emulator, to provide enhanced terminal functionality, a browser for Web, Internet and intranet access, and Lotus e-Suite to provide office functionality. And Rankin says the technology has been so successful, he's now looking for other sections of the organisation where he can deploy the thin client model.

A vast range of vendors, from Sun on the hardware side to Lotus on the software side, are no doubt enthusiastically hoping many other users will follow suit. ■

Tapping into Java-based NCs – Gary Rankin is looking for further business areas in which to 'go thin'

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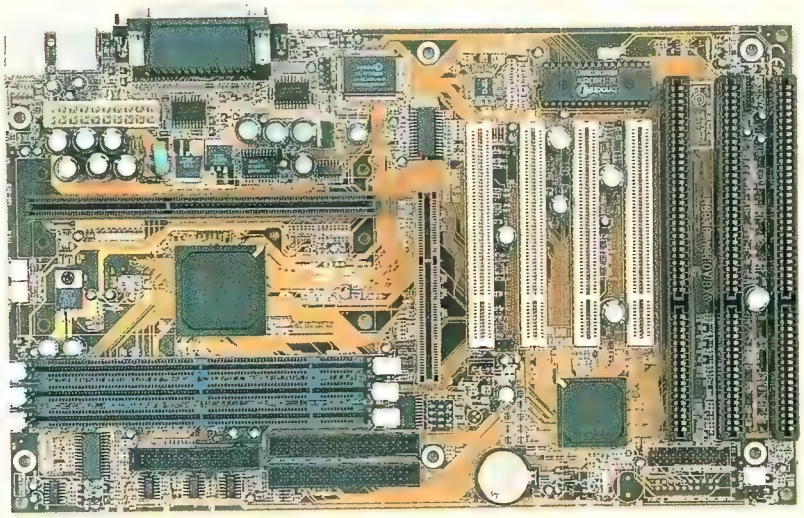
Review



MUM's

By Neville Clarkson

PC World regularly offers advice on how to enhance PC performance: tweak the OS, change the graphics card, upgrade the processor . . . the list goes on. But there's a limit to how far you can go with this kind of "tinkering". If you've tried every enhancement you can think of and your PC is still thrashing about, you may have no choice but to bite the bullet and replace your motherboard.

Unfortunately, a motherboard upgrade is no minor procedure — it's open heart surgery. And although it is possible to take a DIY approach, many users will shy away from the task. Most of the products we reviewed are not designed for consumer installation: documentation is usually thin (and sometimes almost incomprehensible) and substantial user knowledge is often assumed. Furthermore, compatibility issues can cause major headaches. Your processor, graphics adapter, 3D add-in and sound card may work perfectly with your existing motherboard, but there's no guarantee that this harmony will be preserved when the board is upgraded. For many users, a new PC will make more sense than a motherboard upgrade; reputable systems integrators have considerable experience mixing and matching components, so it's often wise to let them build a system for you.

Whether you are planning to install a new motherboard or buy a ready-made PC, an understanding of motherboard technology can help you make an informed decision when selecting the new product. In this review of eight motherboards we concentrate on the issues that are most likely to affect the typical user — how much does the board cost? Will it support all your peripherals? If the BIOS is outdated, how easy is it to replace?

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

When Intel introduced the Pentium II processor in May 1997, there must have been much gnashing of teeth in Taiwan, home to the majority of the world's motherboard manufacturers. In order to accommodate the new oddly-shaped processor, these manufacturers were obliged to jettison many of their tried and tested designs and develop entirely new products. Doubtless they were displeased, too, by the constraints that Intel's patented design imposed upon them. Whereas Socket 7 boards were manufactured to support processors from a variety of vendors (eg Intel, AMD and Cyrix), Slot 1 boards were strictly "Intel only".

For the moment, the future of Socket 7 remains unclear. Thanks in part to an aggressive marketing campaign by Intel, performance — in the minds of most desktop users — means Pentium II. This fact is reflected in the sales of Socket 7 motherboards: 84 million units in 1997, down to a projected 55 million in 1998. And according to statistics quoted by AMD, sales haven't hit the floor yet. The prediction for 1999 is that unit shipments will fall to 24.5 million. But AMD is determined to halt this decline, and if its new K6-2 processor lives up to expectations, it looks as though Intel's Pentium II will face some real competition (see page 82).

But for the moment at least, Intel retains its stranglehold on the processor market, and therefore continues to dictate developments in the motherboard industry. Users buying into the high end of the desktop processor market (350MHz and above) will most likely opt for a motherboard based on Intel's 440BX chipset. In this review, we examine eight such boards.

INTEL'S 440BX AGPSET

The 440BX chipset differs only slightly from its 440LX predecessor, but the differences are crucial. In order to derive the maximum performance benefits from processors rated at 350MHz and above, Intel has cranked up the bus speed from the traditional 66MHz to 100MHz. BX boards can still

run at 66MHz and will therefore support the full range of Pentium II CPUs – a fact that is unlikely to interest the end user but which should come as some relief to systems integrators who can use a single motherboard to build a full range of Pentium II systems. 440BX-based boards include an AGP slot, giving users access to the superior bandwidth available to AGP-based graphics adapters.

TO OVERCLOCK OR NOT?

It's difficult to compare motherboards in absolute terms. A minority of users will opt for a board that allows them to ramp up CPU or bus clock settings beyond Intel's specifications. Almost without exception, vendors advise against any kind of overclocking, warning that the practice will void their warranties and lead to system instability or, worse, damage. Conversely, proponents of overclocking flood Web sites and Internet discussion groups with stories of systems running white hot and healthy. Given that the majority of PC World readers rely on their PCs to support their businesses, we take the view that overclocking isn't worth the risk.

FEATURES

When comparing the eight motherboards in this review, the similarities are more striking than the differences. All boards ship with drive cables and brackets to secure a Pentium II processor. USB support is standard, and each unit ships with PS/2 ports for mouse and keyboard connectivity. Support for UltraDMA/33 hard drives is also universal. Other features which a year or so ago were considered optional extras have become standard – all boards, for example, now incorporate some kind of monitoring capability to alert the user to overheating. Features of the Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) are widely supported; "wake up on LAN" and "wake up on modem ring" capabilities (whereby a "sleeping" PC can be woken up remotely over a LAN or modem connection) are commonplace. But perhaps the most significant similarity is price: unless significant options are added, most of these boards fall into the $300-400 price range.

Among the differences, "jumperless" configuration is arguably one of the most important. Although the majority of boards still require at least one jumper to be set, several can be completely configured in the BIOS setup screens. This is very convenient for obsessive tinkerers (not to mention motherboard reviewers!) but probably irrelevant for those who don't plan to perform their own processor upgrades.

More variety is evident in the selection of software bundled by each vendor. Apart from a driver disk (required to "teach" Windows 95 about chipset characteristics introduced since the release of that OS) most vendors provide a CD crammed with product notes and assorted utilities. While many of these utilities relate directly to motherboard functionality (Intel's LANDesk Client Manager, BIOS flash programs etc) the "freebies" on offer occasionally extend to antivirus and communications applications.

Among the optional extras in this particular crop of boards are audio chips, SCSI controllers and network adapters. The Asus P2B-LS, for example, incorporates versatile SCSI connectors and an RJ45 socket, which goes some way to explain the product's $740 price tag. The advantages of buying a board with "the lot" are twofold: you can be confident that the built-in components will work efficiently together, and you will free up a couple of slots that would otherwise be occupied by SCSI and network adapter cards. The disadvantage, of course, is that built-in components are not easily upgradable.

DOCUMENTATION AND SUPPORT

If you are a regular reader of PC World you will know that we attach considerable importance to documentation and product support. Since most of the motherboards in this roundup are clearly not intended to be installed by the end user, we are more tolerant than usual of poor-quality manuals. More important, we believe, is the design and content of the vendor's Web site. As new technologies arise, this is the obvious place to look for updated information about your board. It's also the best source of BIOS upgrades. An informative and well-maintained Web site can make ownership of a motherboard a much more pleasurable experience.

pc world BEST BUY

Happily, there were no lemons among the motherboards we tested. All these products provide good performance and an excellent range of functions. However, our Best Buy award goes to the Super P6SBA from Supermicro on account of its astonishing speed.

Two other boards deserve special mention. Despite some hiccups in the documentation, the highly flexible configuration options of the AOpen AX6B (notably the 133MHz bus speed option) make it an ideal choice for technically-oriented users wishing to push their systems to the limit. For less experienced users who are nevertheless determined to "go it alone", the jumperless configuration, carefully constructed documentation and low price of the Chaintech 6BTM are powerful drawcards.

HOW WE TESTED

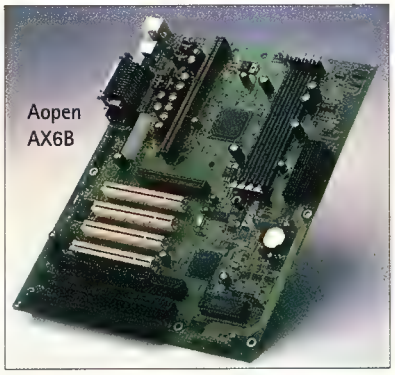
To test our review boards, we hooked them up to a Quantum Fireball hard disk drive and a Diamond CD-ROM. We installed a Hercules Terminator AGP graphics card and 64MB SDRAM. Using a fresh installation of Windows 95 for each board, we ran a series of customised SYSmark32 benchmark tests and recorded the overall score.

Encouragingly, all but one of our test boards completed the benchmark without incident. The exception was Intel's SE440BX board, which could not be made to detect the CD-ROM drive and thus prevented us from installing the SYSmark software and Hercules drivers.

AOPEN AX6B

The AOpen AX6B is solidly constructed and painless to operate. The CPU can be configured in CMOS, so thankfully there's no need for pliers or tweezers.

AOpen has attempted to help the novice installer by illustrating the setup procedure on the box. Unfortunately, the board depicted isn't the AX6B! Similar discrepancies exist in the manual, which leads one to question the integrity of the information it



contains. However, board setup is intuitive, so users are unlikely to be fazed.

Overclockers will be pleased to know that the system bus speed of the AX6B can be cranked up to 133MHz. This option, combined with a wide range of multipliers (from 1.5 to 8), makes this a particularly flexible board. The BIOS, incidentally, can be configured to display its settings in a range of languages including Chinese — a welcome feature while Australia remains multicultural.

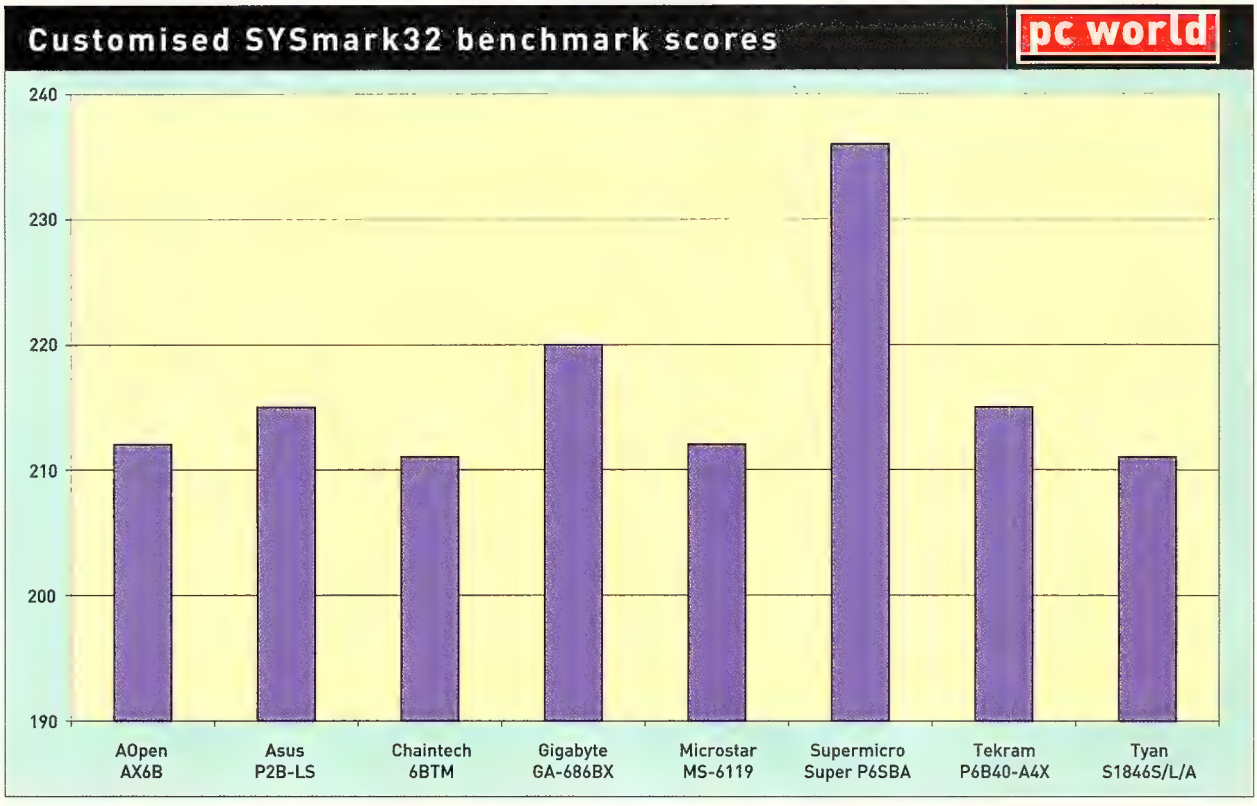
In addition to BIOS flash utilities, the CD software bundle includes Norton Antivirus and Crashguard. There's also an "AOChip" utility that can be used to tidy up those puzzling question-marked devices in Device Manager (Win 95 doesn't deal too well with chipsets it can't recognise). Unlike any other board we reviewed, the AX6B ships with a communications package — AcePhone — that exploits the board's modem wake-up and Suspend to Disk capabilities.

Product information can be viewed at the distributor's Web site and a BIOS download table can be found at www.aopen.com.tw.

ASUS P2B-LS

At $740 the Asus P2B-LS costs more than twice as much as other boards in this roundup. But our review board came with all the trimmings. The built-in Adaptec AIC-7890 chipset supports 8-bit and 16-bit Ultra2, Ultra, and single-ended or standard SCSI devices (required cables are in the box), so those with significant SCSI requirements are well catered for. In addition, an Intel 82558 Ethernet LAN controller provides integrated network connectivity (10Base-T/100Base-TX).

The P2B-LS offers a broad array of system monitoring capabilities, including fan status monitoring and a



CPU temperature alarm. The bundled CD contains Adaptec's EZ-SCSI utility, Asus's PC Probe software and the Trend PC-cillin antivirus product. The addition of Intel's LANDesk Client Manager makes this board particularly appropriate for networked business users.

The Asus Web site is well designed, so BIOS updates and utilities are easily accessible.

CHAINTECH 6BTM

The Chaintech 6BTM rivals the Tyan S1846S in terms of user-friendly documentation and setup. Should you decide to install this board yourself, you will find the manual well laid out and easy to follow. One minor (but considerate) detail is the self-adhesive board diagram at the back of the manual – attach this to the inside of the computer case and you will have a handy reference source if you misplace the manual. You probably won't spend much time with the manual at all, because the (horribly named) SeePU utility will configure the bus and processor for you, with no need for jumpers.

Besides sheltering the end user from jumpers, the Chaintech offers a handy recovery feature that takes user protection a step further. If the system won't boot because the CPU has been misconfigured, you can restart the system with the <Home> key depressed.

This forces the system to use more conservative settings and provide access to CMOS settings.

The 6BTM incorporates Trend's ChipAway and PC-cillin antivirus protection and a systems monitoring application known as Shepherd. BIOS updates are obtainable via a link on the front page of Chaintech's Taiwanese Web site.

At $275, the price is right, even if the one-year warranty is somewhat less than the norm.

PC100 RAM

If there's one component that can bring a 440BX motherboard to its knees more quickly than any other, it's RAM. In order to extract the maximum performance advantage from the 100MHz system bus, RAM timing is ramped up, and bargain-basement RAM most likely won't take the strain.

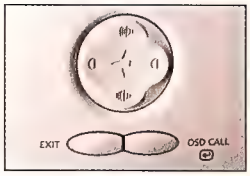
Some BX boards (eg Intel's SE440) will refuse to boot if they detect 66MHz RAM. Others *will* boot but may become unstable. For the user, this means frequent crashes with no discernible reason – the worst predicament imaginable!

The solution? Buy PC100 RAM. This type of memory incorporates an EEPROM called Serial Presence Detect (SPD) which can be queried by the system BIOS and used to configure memory timings correctly. Unfortunately, it is our experience that there are dealers out there building systems with "low speed" RAM, so if you're having problems with your 350+MHz computer it's worth checking your memory modules: they should be clearly marked "PC100".

GIGABYTE GA-686BX

The GA-686BX is "semi-automatic" in that the system bus speed is configured automatically. Processor settings, however, must be adjusted manually. This board uses DIP switches, which are a little easier to manipulate than jumpers.

The board has three ISA and four PCI slots, so there's room for up to six expansion cards. The four DIMM slots will hold up to 1GB SDRAM. The 686BX power management features are impressive. In addition to the more or less standard LAN and modem wake-up functions, the 686BX can be powered on with a touch of the PS/2 keyboard or mouse; and when in suspend mode,



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Features — Motherboards

	AOpen	Asus	Chaintech
Product name	AX6B	P2B-LS	6BTM
CPUs supported	233–450	233–450	233–450
Bus clock speeds supported (MHz)	66/68.5/75/83.3/100/103/112/133.3	50/66.8/75/83.3/100/103/112	66/100
Jumperless configuration	Yes	No	Yes
PCI slots	4	4	4
ISA slots	3	2	3
Total usable slots	6	5	6
DIMM slots	4	4	4
Max SDRAM supported (MB)	1024	512	512
BIOS	Award	Award	Award
Serial ports	2	2	2
Parallel ports	1	1	1
PS/2 ports	2	2	2
IrDA support	Yes	Yes	Yes
USB support	Yes	Yes	Yes
Controller type	EIDE	EIDE/SCSI/Wide SCSI/Ultra2 SCSI	EIDE
Ultra DMA/33 support	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dimensions (mm)	305 by 244	304 by 268	305 by 220
Form factor	ATX	ATX	ATX
CPU overheat alarm	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wake up on LAN	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wake up on modem ring	Yes	Yes	Yes
Suspend to disk	Yes	Yes	No
Other features	Multilingual BIOS	Network interface	Chassis intrusion detection
Bundled software	Norton Antivirus; Crash Guard; AcePhone; BIOS flash utility; Hardware monitor; AOchip	Intel LANDesk Client Manager; Adaptec EZ-SCSI; PC-cillin antivirus; ASUS PC Probe	BIOS flash utility; Award DMI utility; Exclamation mark remover utility; Shepherd system health monitoring; Trend PC-cillin antivirus
RRP	$329	$740	$275
Warranty	2 years	1 year	1 year
Distributor	Servex Australia	Intec Distribution	Adelong Computers
Phone	(02) 9870 1936	(07) 3300 5588	(02) 9669 3188
Web site (distributor)	www.servex.com.au	www.intecdistribution.com	www.adelong.com.au
Web site (vendor)	www.aopen.com.tw	www.asus.com	www.chaintech.com.tw
E-mail	ddeng@acer.com.au	adam@intecdistribution.com	mail@ccmgate.chaintech.com.tw

the system saves power by switching off the CPU fan. Users are warned of CPU overheating by an in-built speaker alarm.

The product ships with Intel's LANDesk Client Manager and a Suspend to Disk utility, among other software. Gigabyte's Web site is informative and easy to navigate, though the procedure for downloading BIOS updates and utilities could be simplified: at present, the site offers a bewildering array of files, and the instructions for use are arcane.

MICROSTAR MS-6119

In its base configuration, the MS-6119 is configured using dip switches. Our test board, however, offered jumperless configuration.

On boot up, the board repeatedly displayed the warning message: "System hardware abnormal, press any key to continue". CMOS settings offered no clue as to what might have been "abnormal", but apart from this message, the board functioned as intended.

MSI has developed a number of technologies to keep the user fully informed of the system status. A comprehensive system report is displayed on startup, covering core CPU voltage, CPU temperature, etc. One interesting innovation is the supplied SoftCooler software, which the manufacturer claims will cool a CPU by up to 57 per cent in five minutes. The Hardware System Monitor software is available in seven languages.

In addition to the expected chipset drivers, bundled software includes Intel's LANDesk Client Manager and Norton Antivirus.

Software updates are available from distributor Mystar's Australian Web site. Drivers and extensive product information can be found at MSI's Taiwan site.

SUPERMICRO SUPER P6SBA

The US-designed Super P6SBA provides four PCI slots, three ISA slots and enough room for three DIMMs – for a total of 384MB SDRAM. The board offers "wake up on LAN" and "wake up on modem ring" features, and an impressive range of monitoring capabilities. The P6SBA incorporates no less than seven voltage monitors (these generate warning messages if voltage becomes unstable) and three fan status monitors in addition to a CPU overheat alarm and chassis intrusion detection capabilities.

Bundled software includes DMI

NB: The information in this table is based on specifications provided by vendors. Please contact them directly for the most up-to-date

Gigabyte	Microstar	Supermicro	Tekram	Tyan
GA-686BX	MS-6119	Super P6SBA	P6B40-A4X	S1846S/L/A
233–400	233–450	233–400	233–450	233–400
66/100	66/100	66/100	66/100 (133)	66/100
No	Yes	No	No	No
4	4	4	4	5
3	3	3	3	2
6	6	6	6	6
4	3	3	4	3
1024	384	768	512	768
Award	Award	AMI	Award	AMI
2	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
Optional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
EIDE	EIDE	EIDE	EIDE	EIDE
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
350 by 180	300 by 186	306 by 178	305 by 170	305 by 210
ATX	ATX	ATX	ATX	ATX
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Software CPU cooling ChipAway virus protection PC Alert	ACPI	Chassis intrusion detection	Ensoniq PCI sound chip
LANDesk Client Manager; Intel Bus Master IDE drivers; System Information Viewer; Suspend to Disk Utility	Busmaster IDE drivers; Intel LANDesk Client Manager; Norton Antivirus	DMI Wizard; Super Doctor; LANDesk Client Manager	LANDesk Client Manager	LANDesk Client Manager
$349	$315	$370	$399	$390
2 years	2 years	2 years	2 years	3 years
BBF Components and Peripherals	Mystar Computers	BCN Technology	Lan 1	IPS
(03) 9761 4299	(02) 9868 6962	(02) 9417 3688	1300 301 053	(02) 9923 1777
www.bbf.com.au	www.mystar.com.au	www.beyondcomputers.com.au	www.lan1.com.au	www.ipspty.com.au
www.gigabyte.com.tw	www.msi.com.tw	www.supermicro.com	www.tekram.com.tw	www.tyan.com
sales@bbf.com.au	info@mystar.com.au	sales@beyondcomputers.com.au	sales@lan1.com.au	ipsty@ipspty.com.au

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utilities, a BIOS flash upgrade program and a system information utility called Super Doctor. Intel LANDesk Client Manager is also available.

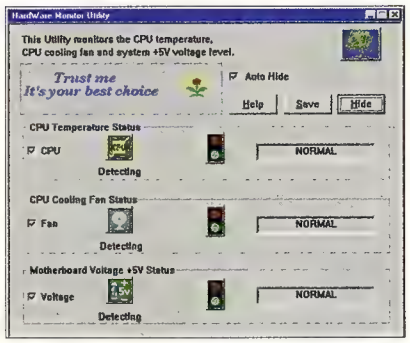
Before we began testing, we anticipated that there would be very little difference in the SYSmark scores achieved by motherboards based on the same chipset. The Super P6SBA proved us wrong. With a score of 236, this product emerged 16 points ahead of its nearest rival. We were so surprised by the result, we assumed an error on our part and put the board through two extra test runs. Still, we couldn't shake the result. This is simply a very fast board.

Distributor Beyond Computers has thoughtfully linked its own Web site directly to BIOS updates at Supermicro. A full product manual (in .pdf format) is also available from the manufacturer's site.

TEKRAM P6B40-A4X

Tekram's compact P6B40-A4X supports 512MB SDRAM and provides enough space for four PCI and two ISA adapter cards (or three ISA and three PCI). But at $399 — with no additional features such as sound or network connectivity — the board is perhaps a little over-priced.

The Award BIOS supports a wide range of "green" functions and also provides the ability to boot from CD-ROM, LS-120 and Zip discs. Hardware monitoring features keep a close watch on CPU voltage, fan status and motherboard temperature. Like the Chaintech board, the P6B40-A4X provides a chassis intrusion detector — a device which (when connected to an appropriate chassis) will warn the user if the computer case has been opened. Officially, the system bus can be set to 66MHz or 100MHz. However, users with a taste for living dangerously can extend this to 133MHz from the BIOS Chipset Features Setup screen.



The Tekram hardware monitoring utility (with a flower to brighten your day)

The product manual is cheaply produced, yet informative and detailed. At the time of writing, the P6B40-A4X had top billing on Tekram's US Web site, so we had no trouble tracking down links to BIOS updates and jumper settings information.

TYAN S1846S/L/A

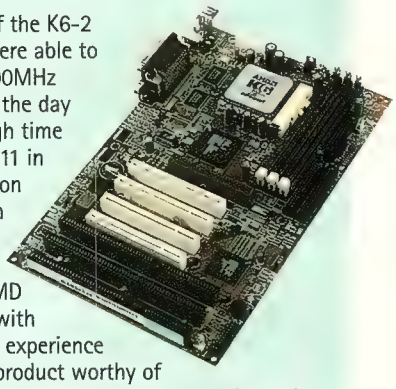
At $390, this Tyan board is relatively expensive, but it does have distinguishing features. Whereas a one- or two-year warranty is the norm, the S1846S/L/A is guaranteed for a full three years. Also, an Ensoniq PCI sound chip is built into the board, so users can potentially save a slot. Six slots can be used simultaneously, and all but two of these are for PCI adapters. This may be a problem for users who are running several legacy ISA cards, but for the majority this design makes sense, since most newer adapter cards are designed for the PCI bus. Three DIMM slots provide for a generous maximum memory configuration of 768MB.

CPU configuration requires the user to set a jumper, but this doesn't mean the board is unsuitable for novices. The manual is well produced and easy to follow; even the BIOS is described in reasonable detail — an important area which is often over-looked in motherboard manuals. A glossary of terms explains key motherboard terminology.

In addition to Windows 95 drivers, the accompanying CD includes client and administrator versions of Intel LANDesk. Further information about this board can be found at the distributor's Web site and at www.tyan.com, where a full product manual is available in .pdf format. ■

AMD breathes new life into Socket 7

Intel's Slot 1 design may have cornered the high-end desktop market for now, but AMD seems determined to give the chip giant something else to worry about besides pending antitrust suits. In conjunction with chipset manufacturers ALI, SiS and Via Technologies, AMD is wooing systems integrators and end users with its Super7 platform. Super7 competes directly with Intel chipsets and Pentium II, offering a 100MHz frontside bus and support for AGP. AMD's original K6 processor outperformed its Pentium competition, and the company clearly hopes that it can repeat its success with the new K6-2.



At the time of writing, a production sample of the K6-2 chip was unavailable for testing. However, we were able to examine a prototype system based on a K6-2 300MHz processor. This machine reached the Test Centre the day before our print deadline, but we had just enough time to run a couple of benchmark tests. A score of 311 in the comprehensive SYSmark32 test (used in Simon Tsang's Top 10 review) compares favourably with Pentium II competition. With the arrival of DirectX 6 and OpenGL libraries that have been optimised for the K6-2's 3DNow! technology, AMD is hoping that their new processor will be a hit with gamers and other users of multimedia. Our brief experience with the test system suggests that they have a product worthy of attention. In the Norton Multimedia benchmark, the K6-2 machine scored 44.4 in the 3D test — again, a good score when compared with similar Pentium II-based systems.

Pricing for the K6-2 has yet to be announced, but if AMD's past record is anything to go by, the processor will undercut equivalent Pentium offerings by up to 25 per cent. Such aggressive pricing will likely trigger further price drops in Intel's processor line-up, and thus give consumers plenty to smile about.

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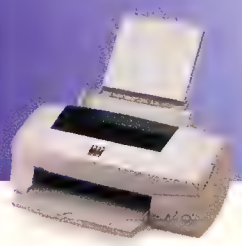

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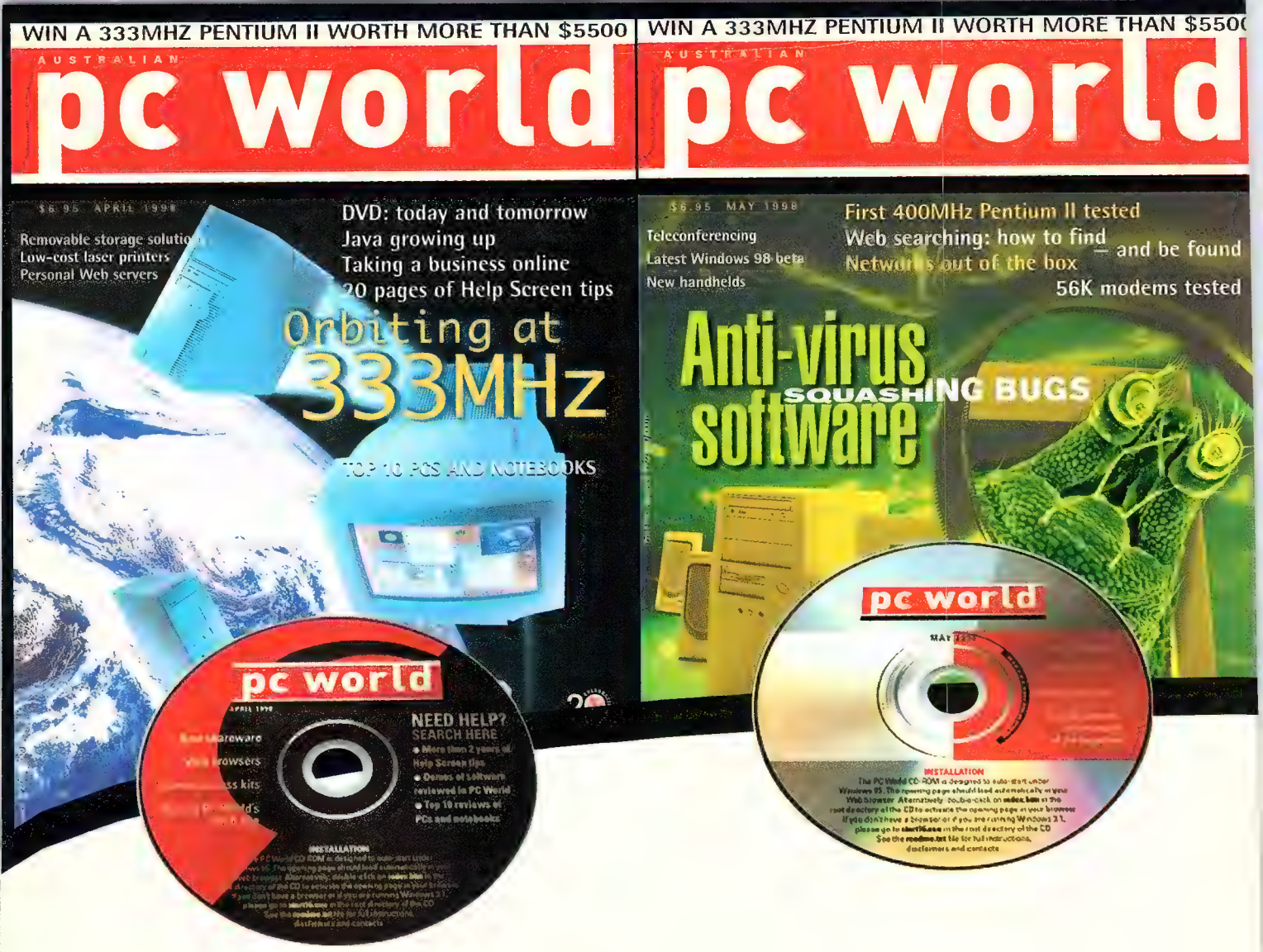

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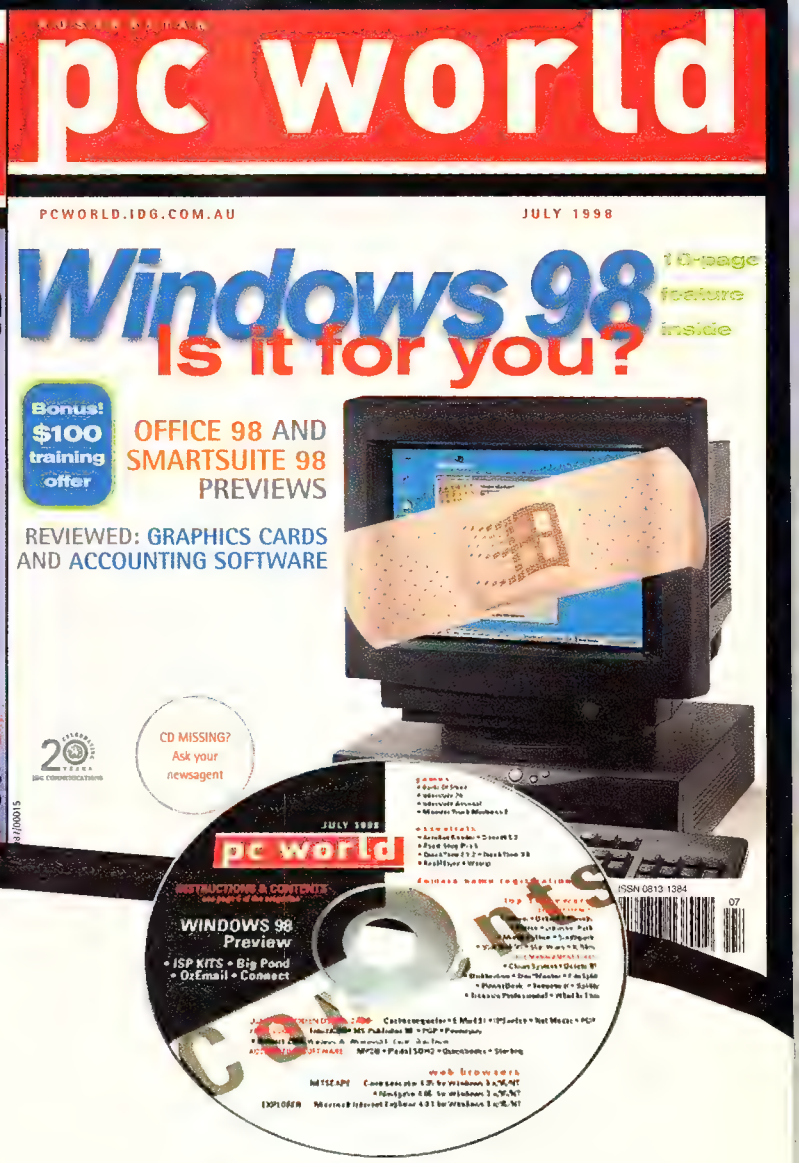

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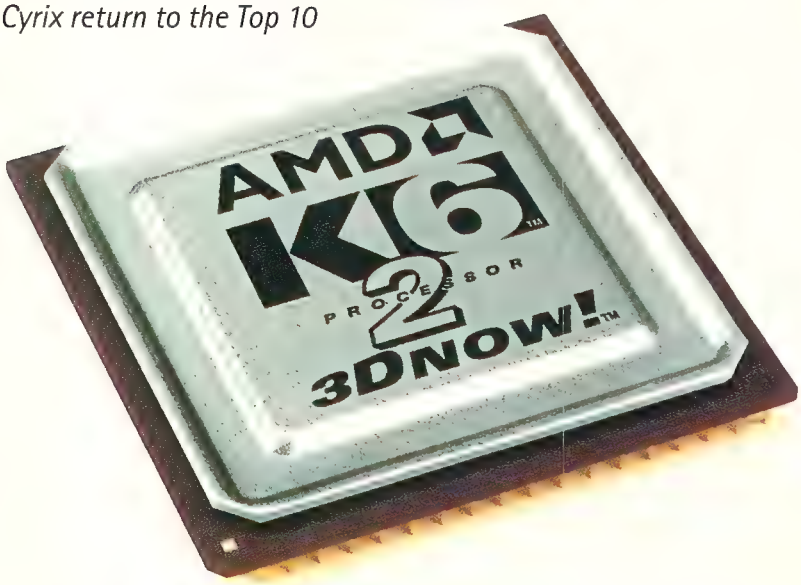
pc world TOP 10

RETURN OF THE INTEL ALTERNATIVES!

AMD launches its Pentium II challenger, and both AMD and Cyrix return to the Top 10



AMD and Cyrix both get a look in this month after being temporarily – but convincingly – ousted out of the majority share it once enjoyed in the Top 10 by Intel's unrelenting price cuts. The Cyrix machine this month (well, the CPU is actually manufactured under licence by IBM) is from Peripherals Plus, which after a successful run with two Pentium-based PCs was keen to give the alternatives a go. Another system from Peripherals Plus using Intel's under-achieving Celeron processor unfortunately took issue with our benchmarks, which prevented us from completing our evaluation of the system. We're hoping to get some comparative results from it next time.

An AMD processor found its way into the Test Centre by hitching a ride in a Trogon notebook sent from Oragon Technology. Retro-fitted to the Trogon T1 chassis, the AMD-K6-266 desktop processor required plenty of cooling, which it received from a beefy heatsink and fan setup. Its performance is comparable to 233MHz Pentium MMX notebooks in applications testing, but lags in multimedia and 3D. But at less than three-and-a-half grand, it's still good value – just not the best. The new Acer Extensa 710DX takes out the top honours this time around – check out the reviews for all the details.

I WANT 3D AND I WANT 3DNOW!

Advance Micro Devices (AMD) has released what could be the first serious competitor to the Pentium II processor.

Introducing AMD's new K6-2 processor, Joe Sekel, marketing director of computation and products group for Asia Pacific and Japan, announced that AMD "plans to enter a new era of visual computing" referring to the 3DNow! technology incorporated into the new K6-2.

Among "other" performance enhancements, 3DNow! technology adds 21 new instructions dedicated to accelerating "3D graphics, multimedia and floating point-intensive applications". Developed in conjunction with various Independent Software Vendors (ISV), Independent Hardware Vendors (IHV) and Microsoft through its DirectX API, 3Dnow! already has broad industry support where it counts. With software support for most of the leading games and graphics chip developers, AMD is quick to point out that 3DNow! is not a replacement for 3D graphics cards – more like an →

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Reviews of all 30 listed PCs and Notebooks online and on our CD

PC World reviews PCs and notebooks in the Test Centre every month, so we can bring you the latest hardware releases as they appear. Computer manufacturers can contact Simon Tsang at PC World to submit a PC or notebook for review.

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pc world TOP 10 Blue Chip PCs

		Last month	Month reviewed	Value rating	Performance rating	Price	CPU	RAM (MB)
1	Optima OCT PII-233	1	May '98	88	317	$2228	Intel Pentium II 233	32
2	Optima OCT PII-350	2	July '98	87	524	$3205	Intel Pentium II 350	64
3	Gateway 2000 GP6-350	3	May '98	81	504	$3499	Intel Pentium II 350	32
4	Dell Dimension XPS R350	4	May '98	71	515	$4059	Intel Pentium II 350	64
5	Gateway 2000 GP6-333	5	May '98	68	329	$2899	Intel Pentium II 333	32
6	Dell OptiPlex GXa M266	6	April '98	63	319	$3095	Intel Pentium II 266	32
7	AcerPower T6400	7	May '98	56	326	$3542	Intel Pentium II 233	32
8	NEC ValueMate 6266	8	May '98	46	249	$3601	Intel Pentium II 266	32
9	NEC ValueMate 5200M	9	May '98	40	174	$2604	Intel Pentium 200 MMX	32
10	AcerPower T6500	10	May '98	39	383	$5802	Intel Pentium II 333	64

pc world TOP 10 Value PCs

		Last month	Month reviewed	Value rating	Performance rating	Price	CPU	RAM (MB)
1	Expert Performance PII 350	NEW	August '98	106	432	$2999	Intel Pentium II 350	64
2	Expert Professional PII 266	1	July '98	101	378	$2229	Intel Pentium II 266	64
3	Pioneer 98 PII 300	2	July '98	100	453	$2499	Intel Pentium II 300	32
4	NCC Omega Pro 233/2	3	July '98	95	364	$2350	Intel Pentium II 233	32
5	Peripherals Plus P.Plus 266I	NEW	August '98	92	209	$1695	IBM/Cyrix 6x86MX PR266	64
6	Expert Multimedia P233MMX	4	July '98	88	207	$1699	Intel Pentium 233 MMX	32
7	Peripherals Plus PII-233	6	April '98	86	251	$2095	Intel Pentium II 233	64
8	Prodigy Diamond 300	7	July '98	80	341	$2745	Intel Pentium II 300	64
9	DAT Confrere 200MMX	8	April '98	78	235	$2050	Intel Pentium 200 MMX	32
10	EPL PII 300 AGP	NEW	August '98	74	339	$2795	Intel Pentium II 300	64

pc world TOP 10 Notebooks

		Last month	Month reviewed	Value rating	Performance rating	Price	CPU	RAM (MB)
1	Acer Extensa 710DX	NEW	August '98	107	227	$3999	Intel Pentium II 233	32
2	Oragon S22	1	June '98	97	195	$3799	Intel Pentium 233 MMX	32
3	Trogon T1	NEW	August '98	95	172	$3499	AMD K6 266	32
4	Gateway Solo 2500LS	NEW	August '98	95	187	$4199	Intel Pentium 233 MMX	32
5	Prodigy 1800T 266	3	May '98	82	208	$4995	Intel Pentium 266 MMX	64
6	Oragon S24	8	June '98	80	189	$4595	Intel Pentium 233 MMX	32
7	Dell Inspiron 3000 M233XT	4	February '98	75	199	$5487	Intel Pentium 233 MMX	64
8	TECO Adventurer-V	5	Dec/Jan '97	75	113	$2995	Intel Pentium 166 MMX	16
9	Dell Inspiron 3000 M266XT	7	April '98	74	199	$5389	Intel Pentium 266 MMX	32
10	MicroPro MARS 7200	9	February '98	66	147	$4950	Intel Pentium 233 MMX	32

The Top 10 Guide

CHARTS The Top 10 PCs and notebooks are ranked according to their Value rating. This rating is derived from a combination of features, performance and price, and thus reflects the value for money of a PC or notebook. We've divided the PCs into two categories — Blue Chip and Value — to reflect the differences in the companies behind the products and ultimately the products themselves. Blue Chip companies are those that have qualified as a corporate supplier under an independent survey conducted by the Gartner Group research company. They are also the brand names most likely to make it onto a corporate buyer's shopping list. The Value list represents a much broader spectrum of PC vendors from corner-shop clones to large computer manufacturers.

PRICING Factors such as price changes may also affect the final ranks for each month. Because computer component prices fluctuate, the distributors of the Top 10 systems are contacted every month to see if the pricing or configuration of their products has changed. The recommended retail prices are valid at the time of going to press, but it's best to check with the vendor for up-to-the-minute pricing.

Hard disk (GB)	Monitor	Phone
3.2	15in	(02) 9841 2777
4.3	15in	(02) 9841 2777
4	17in	1800 500 731
6.4	17in	1800 810 678
4	15in	1800 500 731
3.2	15in	1800 810 678
3.2	15in	(02) 9870 1999
3.2	15in	13 1632
3.2	15in	13 1632
6.4	17in	(02) 9870 1999

Hard disk (GB)	Monitor	Phone
4.3	15in	(02) 9748 8688
4.3	15in	(02) 9748 8688
4.3	15in	(02) 9690 2888
2.5	15in	(02) 9799 5564
4.3	15in	(02) 9630 3166
3.2	15in	(02) 9748 8688
4.3	15in	(02) 9630 3166
4.3	15in	(03) 9580 4088
2.1	15in	(02) 9736 2688
4.3	15in	(02) 9387 7555

Hard disk (GB)	Display	Phone
2.1	12.1 SCC	(02) 9870 1999
2.1	12.1 TFT	(08) 9328 8755
3.2	12.1 TFT	(08) 9328 8755
3	12.1 TFT	1800 500 731
3.2	13.3 TFT	(03) 9580 4088
2.1	14.2 TFT	(08) 9328 8755
2.1	13.3 TFT	1800 808 312
1.08	12.1 DSTN	(02) 9765 8180
3.2	13.3 TFT	1800 808 312
2.1	13.3 TFT	(02) 9977 6111

VALUE RATING We have assigned point scores to various features of a computer – these include the specification as well as design and quality. The sum of these scores is then combined with the performance rating – derived from three benchmarks we use (SYSmark/32, Norton's Multimedia Benchmark and Norton's Multimedia Benchmark 3D) – and then divided by the recommended retail price to get the Value rating.

enhancement to free up the bottleneck in graphics performance.

In a conspicuous stab at the Pentium II at which the new K6-2 with 3DNow! is targeted, Sekel further adds "instead of throwing frequency at the product, we've thrown innovation".

The 3DNow! instruction set has been combined with existing MMX instructions to maintain compatibility and "eliminate" task switching between the two operating modes. But AMD maintains that it is a different technology altogether, as "3DNow! technology complements and enhances the performance of graphics accelerators by speeding up the floating point-intensive, front-end stages of the pipeline", while MMX technology doubles up on the graphics card's job of improving integer-intensive operations.

The new processor is based on the Socket 7 architecture that Intel is so keen to take the industry away from. And to match Intel's 440BX 100MHz bus speed for Pentium IIs, a new Socket 7-based 100MHz bus specification has been developed, known as the Super7 platform that also supports AGP. Thus, as with Pentium II processors, AMD-K6-2 processors with clock frequencies in multiples of 50MHz (eg, 300, 350 and 400MHz) will be supported by a 100MHz bus platform.

Initially, AMD is releasing 266MHz, 300MHz and 333MHz versions of the K6-2 processor, with the 350MHz and 400MHz models to follow in the third and fourth quarters of this year respectively. AMD has already migrated all production to the 0.25 micron manufacturing process, with 0.18 micron due to roll out next year. The K6-2 processor with 3DNow! will be priced at 25 per cent lower than a Pentium II at the same clock speed, though AMD emphasises that the K6-2 chip is far superior in 3D performance to a Pentium II of the same frequency rating. Quoting figures from various industry recognised benchmarks, AMD compared their K6-2/300 processor to that of 400MHz Pentium II models.

The first generation AMD-K6 CPUs, meanwhile, will find new company in the lower end of the market, going head-to-head with Intel's stripped-down Celeron.

Value PCs tested this month

PERIPHERALS PLUS P.PLUS 266I

It's been a few months since we've had any Intel alternatives in the Top 10, which had been dominated by the likes of AMD and Cyrix due to their low pricing. While the IBM 6x86MX CPU on which the P.Plus 266I is based is still easier on the bank account than most Pentium models, it's obvious that Intel has wasted no time in regaining lost ground in the price war. The fact that this system lands at number five despite being the cheapest package on the list is testament to how much Intel has learned from the flogging it received in the budget end of the PC market.

In the end, the P.Plus 266I conceded only in the multimedia and 3D benchmarks, still offering pretty good applications performance. The case is a sturdy midi tower design that allows for three 5.25in drives and up to a total of five 3.5in drives (only two are accessible), counting the brackets situated under the power supply. It supports a second cooling fan just behind the front panel with a removable filter for easy cleaning. The package includes a software bundle of Lotus SmartSuite 97 and World Book Encyclopedia, as well as other educational titles.

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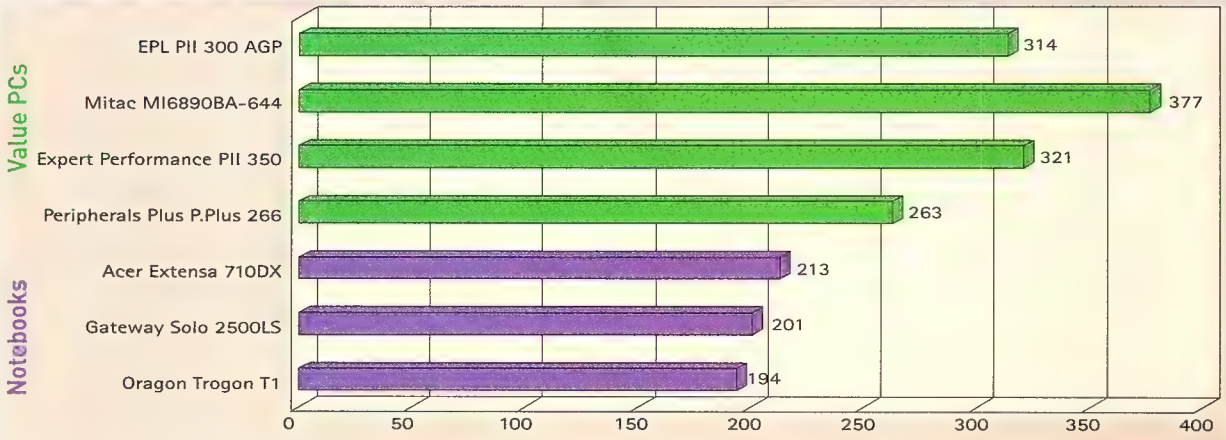
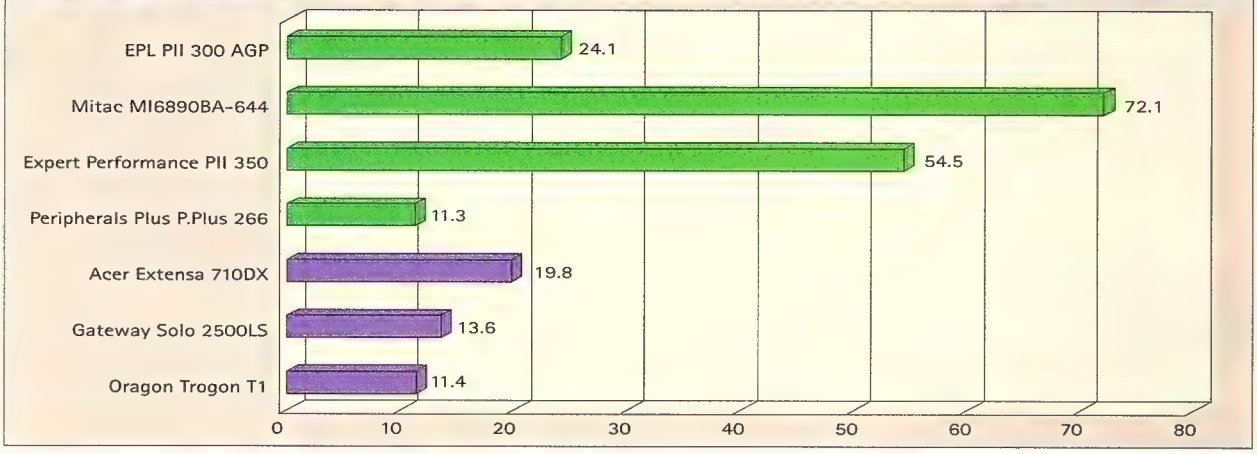
Total SYSmark performance — PCs and notebooks



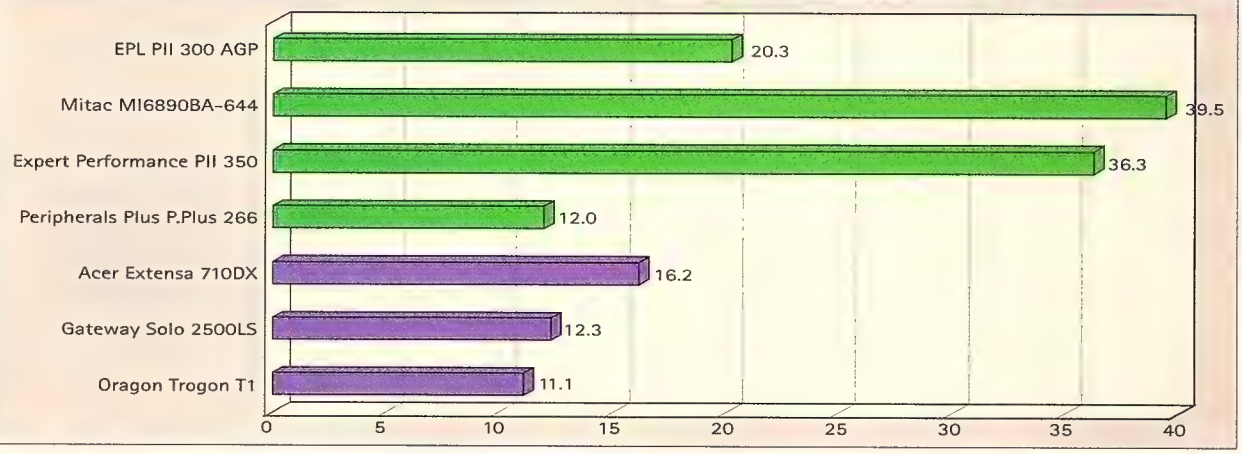
The PC World Test Centre uses the SYSmark benchmark system to grade the performance of PCs and notebooks. SYSmark tests all the components of a computer that affect its performance — not just the CPU and hard disk drive, but also the memory, bus design, CMOS/BIOS, video performance, and the setup and tuning of the machine. The test runs eight popular business applications (not simulations) through a range of everyday computing tasks. Depending on the performance of the system being tested, SYSmark can take several hours to complete these tasks

→Better

Norton Multimedia — 3D performance



Norton Multimedia — Overall performance



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DELD0017/PCW/FPC/2

EPL PII 300 AGP

It doesn't get more generically named than that, does it? The EPL PC is encased in a plain, but stylish AOpen minitower box. Its configuration is well thought out, and probably similar to specifications I'd choose for myself if I were to spend the money – not the absolute high-end, but having enough grunt where it counts to keep software churning happily for some time to come.

EPL has opted for the AGP version of the formidable Diamond Viper V330 fitted with 4MB of SGRAM to handle the graphics side of things. Picture tube is a 15in Daewoo monitor that looks like its been styled by the same design studio as its cars. It displays 14in of viewable area supporting a maximum resolution of 1280 x 1024. The picture quality is reasonably clear and sharp despite the 0.28 dot pitch.

On the gripes side, a 9-pin serial mouse was supplied with the system, despite the availability of a PS/2 port for the device, and the mouse itself (Artec) leaves no doubt as to its cost-saving – the third (right) button was virtually ineffective on arrival. Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 is preinstalled and EPL offers a three-year nationwide on-site warranty with this system.

✔ Good performance, configuration, warranty
✘ Mouse is a dog
Rank: ⑩
Price: $2795
EPL Computer Services
Phone: (02) 9387 7555
Epl@klever.com.au

MITAC MI6890BA-644

The name may show a lack of imagination, but the PC case will leave a lot of people wondering what the designers were on when they drafted this box. Somewhere between a Borg ship (ask any Trekkie what that means) and textured wallpaper from the '70s, the Mitac's midi-tower case is a breakaway from the conventional PC mould.

Though four 3.5in bays are available, only the floppy drive is accessible from the outside, leaving the three 5.25in bays to handle any additional externally-operated devices. Its metal chassis is clad with a plastic veneer that even extends to the back of the case, giving it a well-finished look. Also clipped on are four fold-out legs that I'm guessing are to assure you that the PC is actually standing up straight, despite the illusionary nature of its design.

An ergonomic keyboard with a palmrest extension is included with the PC, as is a Microsoft IntelliMouse. The Pentium II 400MHz has been applied to stunning effect – the Mitac's performance can only be described as awesome, scoring the highest of any we've tested in the 3D category. A three-year warranty is offered with this system.

✔ Brilliant performance, well packaged
✘ Case design an acquired taste, price
Rank: did not qualify
Price: $3999
Synnex Australia
Phone: (03) 9540 0555
www.synnex.com.au

EXPERT PERFORMANCE PII 350

Aptly named, the latest DataExpert-based PC from Datawell once again tops the chart in its debut. Based on the Expert Professional PII 266 reviewed last month, the Performance PII 350 adds a 100MHz 440BX-based motherboard and 350MHz Pentium II processor to the already potent formula. The remaining configuration is identical. Applications performance has increased by approximately 11 per cent, while multimedia and 3D receives 27 per cent and 21 per cent boosts respectively. With 64MB of SDRAM and 8MB of graphics SGRAM on tap, the Performance PII 350 will keep even the most upgrade-happy user satisfied for some time to come. 4.3GB of Quantum's Fireball also ensures plenty of data storage space. Bang for buck? You betcha.

✔ Excellent performance, price, configuration, case design
✘ None significant
Rank: ①
Price: $2999
Datawell
Phone: (02) 9748 8688
Info@datawell.com.au

Notebooks tested this month

ACER EXTENSA 710DX

Acer has finally released the much anticipated replacement for the Extensa 390 Series notebook. Jumping up a few digits, the new Extensa 710 Series will be the new performance frontrunner in Acer's notebook line-up. First reviewed in the February 1998 issue of PC World, the Extensa 394 was →

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Zip Cartridge	$20
Jaz Cartridge	$155
Sony DDS-4010E 2-4Gb DAT	$999
Sony DDS-5210 4Gb Int	$1199
Sony DDS-5010 4-8Gb DAT	$1299
Sony DDS-7000/R 8-4Gb DAT	$1399
Sony DDS-9000/R 12-24GbDAT	$1999
Sony 2.6 5.25" MO	$2768
Syquest EZFlyer 230Mb	$345
Syquest SparQ 1.0Gb	$488

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ACN 079 546 508

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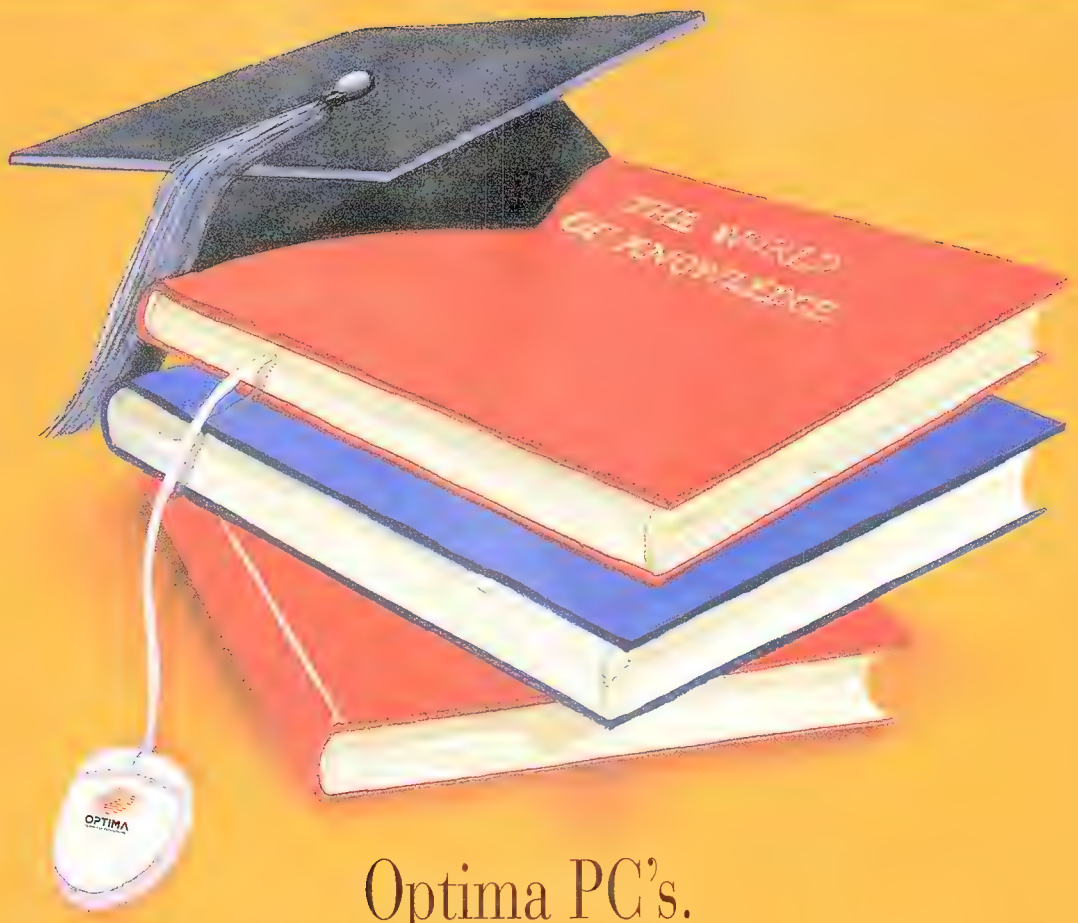
Features — Value PCs

	EPL PII 300 AGP	Expert Performance PII 350	Mitac MI6890-644	Peripherals Plus P.Plus 266I
CPU & MOTHERBOARD				
Processor make/model	Intel Pentium II 300	Intel Pentium II 350	Intel Pentium II 400	IBM/Cyrix 6x86 PR266MX
Motherboard make/model	Gigabyte GA-686LX	DataExpert MBX8440	Abit BX6	Micro-Star MS-5156
Chipset	Intel 440LX	Intel 440BX	Intel 440BX	Intel 440TX
BIOS	Award	Award v4.51PG	Award v4.51PG	AMI
ISA bus slots	3	3	3	3
PCI bus slots	4	4	4	5
AGP	yes	yes	yes	no
SCSI	no	no	no	no
Software CPU configuration	no	no	no	yes
MEMORY				
RAM (as tested)	64MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM PC100	64MB SDRAM
Maximum RAM	512MB	384MB	512MB	256MB
Level 2 cache	512K	512K	512K	512K
Pipeline burst SRAM	yes	yes	yes	yes
SIMM slots (72-pin)	0	0	0	4
DIMM slots (168-pin)	4	3	4	2
STORAGE				
Hard disk make/model	Quantum Fireball SE	Quantum Fireball SE	Fujitsu	Quantum Fireball SE
Hard disk capacity (GB)	4.3	4.3	6.4	4.3
Type	Ultra DMA/33	Ultra DMA/33	Ultra DMA/33	Ultra DMA/33
CD-ROM drive make/model	32x AOpen	32x Diamond Data	32x Liteon	32x Mitsubishi
Others	none	none	none	none
CASE DESIGN				
Type	Mid-tower	Mid-tower	Mid-tower	Midi-tower
5.25in bays	3	3	3	3
3.5in bays	3	3	4	3
Power rating (watts)	235	235	235	250
Soft power on button	yes	yes	yes	no
GRAPHICS & DISPLAY				
Video card make/model	Diamond Viper V330	ExpertColor Permedia 2 3D DPM5020	Diamond Viper V330	DataExpert S3 Virge GX-2
Video card memory	4MB SGRAM	8MB SGRAM	4MB SGRAM	4MB SGRAM
Bus type	AGP	AGP	AGP	PCI
Monitor make/model	15in Daewoo	15in Samtron 5Ei	15in Liteon CM1570	15in Daewoo 158B
CONNECTIVITY				
Ports[1]	2s, 1p, 1g/midi	2s, 1p, 1g/midi	2s, 1p, 1g/midi	2s, 1p, 1g/midi
PS/2	2	2	2	1
USB	2	2	2	2
Audio	mic, line-in, speaker	mic, line-in/out, speaker	mic, line-in, speaker	mic, line-in/out, speaker
Modem	no	no	Internal 56K	none
Network adapter	no	no	no	none
AUDIO				
Sound card	Creative Sound Blaster 16	DataExpert MED6617	Creative Vibra 16	S3 Sonic 80 PCI
Speakers	Multimedia 480W	THL-160	Juster	SD693 120W
SOFTWARE & BUNDLING				
Operating system	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 98
Other titles	VET AntiVirus	Lotus SmartSuite 97	Lotus SmartSuite 97, World Book Encyclopedia, Virtual CD, EISA Internet access kit (20 hours free)	Lotus SmartSuite 97, World Book Encyclopedia, IBM Educational titles
Extras	none	none	none	n/a
SERVICE & SUPPORT				
Warranty	3 years national on-site parts and labour	2 years	3 years	3 years
Phone support	yes	yes	yes	yes
Internet	epl@klever.net.au	info@datawell.com.au	www.synnex.com.au	perplus.com.au
BBS	no	no	no	no
RRP	$2795	$2999	$3999	$1695

[1]Port abbreviations: s=serial, p=parallel, g=games



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An Essential Element in Education.

Over the past few years Optima has become one of the largest computer suppliers to the Australian education market. This has been achieved by focusing exclusively on offering complete hardware and networking solutions to end-users, be they students or teachers.

Our quality and service far exceeds the ISO 9002 Australian Standard, so it's no surprise Optima ranked in the top 5 in APC Magazine Service and Reliability Survey. Ranked second largest local computer manufacturer in Australia in 1997 by IDC, Optima is an essential element in education throughout Australia.

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Unit 5A, Metro Centre

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Sydney

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praised for its value-for-money and performance for the configuration. Design, features, connectivity and functionality also scored well.

The new Extensa 710DX, I'm happy to say, has lost none of the appeal of the 394, while adding a few improvements on the design. This includes the floppy drive which is now a built-in unit rather than the external-only configuration of the 394 model. And despite an arrangement whereby the floppy is stacked on top of the modular CD-ROM drive, the 710's profile remains a relatively slim 45mm – 1mm lower than the 394 in fact. The 710's width also gets trimmed of 2mm, while stretched by 6mm in depth.

Styling details, such as the polished, tinted plastic surrounding the S-video port, USB connector and power switch that extends to cover the IrDA, are a nice touch. A docking station connector is cleverly concealed on the underside of the base, leaving room in the rear panel for the removable hard disk. Three display options are on offer, starting with the base 12.1in Super Clear Colour (SCC), then moving up to a 12.1in SVGA TFT and 13.3in XGA TFT. We received the lowly 12.1in SCC, which is more or less a variation of the Dual Scan passive colour display and explains the less-than-impressive picture quality. An excellent follow-up to a successful formula, the Extensa 710DX proves to be another winner from Acer.

✔ Good performance, function, design, price, warranty
✘ SCC display a let-down
Rank: ①
Price: $3999
Acer Computer
Phone: (02) 9870 1999
www.acer.com.au

GATEWAY SOLO 2500LS

At first glance, the 2500 appears almost identical to the long-running 2300 Solo notebook series it replaces. But look closely and you'll notice that one significant difference is that the floppy and CD-ROM drives now operate simultaneously without the aid of external connections. The former remains modular but sits in its own holster, while the latter is now a built-in unit. This is a welcome change over the fiddly external floppy drive setup of the 2300 that hogs up the parallel port. As a result, the overall dimensions are slightly larger than the 2300 in every direction but weight remains the same.

The 2500 also revives the LCD status panel of earlier Solos that can be viewed even when the display lid is closed. In all, there are four models in the 2500 lineup, ranging from a Pentium 200MMX with a passive 12.1in DSTN display to a Pentium 266MMX with a 13.3in XGA TFT screen. We reviewed the mid-range 2500LS with a 233MHz Pentium MMX Tillamook CPU and 12.1in TFT screen running 32MB of SDRAM. The overall performance is identical to a similarly configured 2300XL we reviewed in April. The formula has slightly changed, but thankfully, the essence is still there.

✔ Good performance and package, price
✘ No keyboard tilt
Rank: ④
Price: $4199
Gateway
Phone: 1800 500 338
www.gw2k.com.au

TROGON T1

It's not often we get notebooks powered by an AMD processor, but it's good to know they exist – even if the notebooks are reverse-engineered to fit a desktop CPU in the belly. And what a belly it is! Covered by a bulging panel with a grill for ventilation, the underside of the notebook has been given extra clearance by tall rubber feet to accommodate the protrusion – think Garfield after downing an entire bag of cat food in one go.

This is due to the large heatsink and fan required to cool the CPU. The fan itself is excessively noisy in action, which, thankfully, isn't all the time. CD-ROM and floppy drives are both built in with the only removable component being the battery. Modularity is hampered by a lack of a docking station port, and the rear panel of connectors has an unfinished feel about it with an exposed metal plating. The processor is of the K6 generation running at 266MHz. The performance is not so impressive when compared to 233MHz and 266MHz MMX processors, especially in 3D, but the pricepoint speaks for itself. Overall styling is quite good and we found the Trogon T1 very easy to use despite the drawbacks. ■

✔ Price, ease of use
✘ Noisy fan, one-year warranty, modularity
Rank: ③
Price: $3499
Oragon Technology Corporation
Phone: (08) 9328 8755
Oragon@eon.net.au

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MULTIMEDIA PERSONAL COMPUTER

Pentium 233MMX Mhz CPU
32 MB RAM
3.2 Gig harddisk
2 MB PCI SVGA CARD
15 SVGA MONITOR N/I
104 KEYBOARD AND MOUSE
32 SPIN CD-ROM kit with SOUND BLASTER 16 CARD

$ 1325.00

SPECIAL PERSONAL COMPUTER

INTEL Pentium II-300 CPU
64 MB RAM
4.3 Gig EIDE harddisk
EIDE controller (16550)
4 MB PCI SVGA CARD
***17* inch SVGA MONITOR N/I**
104 KEYBOARD & MOUSE
SB16 & 32 spin CD-ROM

$ 2075.00

HARDDRIVES

Fujitsu SCSI-2 4.3 Gig	$890
Fujitsu SCSI-2 9 Gig	$2680
Seagate 9 Gig Barracuda SCSI-1,2,3,U	$3850
Quantum 4.3 Gig EIDE	$310
Quantum 6.5 Gig EIDE Bigfoot	$380
Quantum 12 Gig EIDE Bigfoot	$690
Quantum Viking II U/Wide 4.5 Gig	**$750**
Quantum Viking II U/Wide SCSI 9Gig	$1390
Western Digital 5 Gig ST drive	$525

MONITORS

Tatung SVGA Monitor 15 inch	$335
AOC 17 inch 0.28 dpi SVGA mon	$599
MAG 17 inch 0.26 dpi DJ707 mon	$899
MAG 19 inch 0.26 dpi DJ800 mon	$1350
NEC LCD400V 14.1 inch LCD 0.28	$3795
NEC A700 17 inch series 0.28 dpi	$860
NEC E1100 21 inch series Multisync	$2999
Philips 17 inch monitor	$745
Sony CPD200ES 17 inch TRINITRON	$1290
Sony 400PS 19 inch TRINITRON	$2599

VGA and OTHER CARDS

Matrox Millenium II 4 Mb card	$345
Matrox Productivia 8Mb AGP card	$199
Diamond Monster 3DFX II 8Mb card	$425
S3 2 Mb PCI Card	$65
S3 4 Mb 3D PCI Card	$99
4 Mb AGP Card	$140
Diamond Stealth 2 Mb PCI SVGA card	$140

MOTHERBOARDS & CPU

M/b & Pent CPU 233 Mhz MMX	$399
M/b & Pentium II 266 Mhz PCI	$650
M/b & Pentium II 300 Mhz PCI	$750
M/b & Pentium II 333 Mhz PCI	$1100
M/b & Pentium II 400 Mhz PCI	$1650
M/b & Pentium II 450 Mhz PCI	$CALL

CONTROLLERS + CASES

Flop/Hd ISA EIDE 16550 Multi I/O	$40
Adaptec 2940 PCI SCSI Controller	$440
Adaptec 2940W PCI U/W SCSI Cont	$520
Mini Tower Case & power supply	$75
MiDi ATX Tower Case & power supply	$125

Input Devices & Printer Switches

Honeywell 104 keyboard	$60
104 keyboard	$28
Logitech Mouse Serial OEM	$40
Microsoft Intellimouse OEM	$65
Printer Switch 4 to 1 Automatic	$60

MODEMS

Lightspeed 56.6 V.34bis Fax/Modem	$150
Netcomm Roadster II 56,000 bps	$285
Netcomm PCMCIA 56.6/10 Base-T	$499
Banksia Wave SP SVD Fax/Mod 56.6	$285
XIRCOM ethernet TP/ModemPCMCIA	$490

UPS

APC Back-UPS 500	$310
APC Back-UPS PRO 1000 with s/ware	$950
APC Line-R Power Conditioner 600	$290

SCANNERS

Canon Parallel port Flatbed	$199
Hewlett Packard 5100C Scanner	$480
Hewlett Packard 6100C Scanner + card	$1250
Opticpro A31 col scanner A3 400 x 800	$820

M/MEDIA,CD-R,ZIP & DVD

Soundblaster AWE 64	$150
Soundblaster AWE 64PCI	$275
SB16, 24spin, Speakers & CD's KIT	$195
32 Spin CD-ROM drive EIDE	$125
Kodak IDE writer only 8r2w	$575
Philips IDE kit rewrite 6r2w2re	$750
Panasonic 8r4w SCSI kit	$925
RICOH rewrite SCSI kit 6r2w2re	**$835**
IOMEGA **ZIP** drive ext. parallel port	$245
Creative PC-DVD kit	$640
Pioneer IDE DVD drive only	$350
Hitach Rewrite SCSI DVD player	$1945
Panasonic 120Mb floppy drive	$199

NETWORKS

NT 4.0 Server Edition 5 client lic.	$1080
NT 4.0 Workstation OEM	$300

NETWORK CARDS & Acces.

PCI 32 bit NE2000 network cards	**$35**
3Com Etherlink III PCI card TP	$225
Intel EE PRO PCI 100+	$199
Intel EE PRO 10/100 PCMCIA	$299
SMC Etherez 8 port TP Hub	$250
XIRCOM combo coax/TP PCMCIA	$290
Intel Netport Express (RJ45 BNC)2p 1s	$845

PRINTERS & FAX

Multifunction

HP 590 col printer, fax, copier, scanner	$750
HP 3100 laser printer fax, copier, scan.	$1399

Laser

Epson 5500W Windows laser printer	$490
Hewlett Packard 6L 6ppm 600dpi	$620
Hewlett Packard 6P 8ppm 600dpi	$1350
Hewlett Packard 4000 12p 1200dpi	**$2050**
Hewlett Packard 4V 'A3' 600 dpi Laser	$3790
OKI 10i 10 ppm printer	$1190
OKI 20N 20 ppm printer	$2150
Panasonic KXP6100 laser	$390

Inkjet

Canon BJC4200 inkjet	$255
Epson Colour Stylus 600 1440 dpi	$399
Epson Colour Stylus 800 1440 dpi	$625
Epson Stylus Photo 700 1440 dpi	$499
Hewlett Packard Deskjet 670C	$249
Hewlett Packard Deskjet 692C	$375

COMPUTERS

Personal Level 1 Computers (PL-1 series)
64 Mb SDRAM,1.44Mb floppies, 4.3 Gig hdd, Mouse, SVGA Mon 15 N/I, 4 Mb S3 Virge PCI, EIDE PCI cont, SB16, 32 spin, Speakers

Pentium II 266	$1745
Pentium II 300	$1845
Pentium II 333	$2225
Pentium II 400	$2945

Business Level 2 Computers (BL-2 series)
64 Mb sdram,1.44, 4.3 Gig SCSI, Adaptec 2940 PCI, Intel 10/100 Net card, 2 Mb PCI, 15 inch mon., MS mouse, CD-ROM,Win 98

Pentium 233 MMX	$2690
Pentium II 266,	$3045
Pentium II 300,	$3299
Pentium II 333,	$3545
Pentium II 400,	$4390
Digital Workstations/PC's	**$CALL**

RAM

16 Mb SIMM	$45
32 Mb DIMM	$60
64 Mb DIMM	$150

Tape Backup

Seagate 8 Gig Internal Tape Kit	**$645**
HP Colorado 8 Gig External parallel	$725
SONY Storstation 2 Gig parallel backup	$320
SONY 2 Gig DAT Internal DDS-1	$1099
SONY 4-8 Gig DAT Internal DDS-2	$1580
SONY 12-24 Gig DAT Internal DDS-3	$2399
SONY AIT 25-50 Gig Drive	$CALL

VIDEO CONF & DIG CAMERAS

Kodak DC200 digital camera	$899
SONY Digital Mavica camera	$960
Video Blaster II Conferencing kit	$255
Videum notebook Conferencing kit	$595
MIRO Media PCTV Tuner	$260
MIRO video DC20 plus non lin vid ed.	$1250
JERONIMO Dual monitor display card	$CALL
8 port VGA monitor splitter	$290

NOTEBOOKS

COMPAQ:

Presario 1207 P/150 P/col 16/1.4g, CD	$3399
Armada 1520 P/133 P/col 16/1 gig,CD	$2779
Armada 4150T P/150 mx A/col 16/1.6g	$5129
7750MT P/166 mx 12.1 A/col 16/2.1g	$8689

TOSHIBA:

Sat300CDS P/166 P/col 16xCD 16/2g	$2749
Libretto 100CT P/166 A/col 32/2g	$4299
780 DVD PII /266 A/c DVDx2,64/4.8g	$9685
Portege 320CT P/266mx A/cl 32/4g	$6299

SOFTWARE

Windows 98 OEM	$150
Windows 98 upgrade	$130
Microsoft Office Pro 97	**$680**
Lotus Smartsuite 97 OEM	**$40**
Microsoft Word 97 OEM	$140
Microsoft Excel 97	$350
Microsoft Access 97	$350
MS Frontpage 98	$170
Artisoft I.Share 10 user	$290

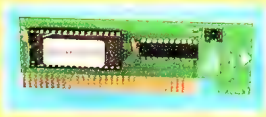
Features — Notebooks

	Acer Extensa 710DX	Trogon T1	Gateway Solo 2500LS
CPU			
Processor type/speed	Intel Pentium II 233	AMD K6 266	Intel Pentium 233 MMX
Mobile Module	yes	no	yes
MEMORY			
RAM (as tested)	32MB SDRAM	32MB EDO	32MB SDRAM
Maximum RAM	128MB	96MB	160MB
Level 2 Cache	512K	256K	512KB
STORAGE			
Hard disk make/model	Hitachi DK226A-21U	Fujitsu	IBM
Hard disk capacity	2.1GB	3.2GB	3GB
Maximum hard disk	6GB	5GB	6GB
Removable hard disk	yes	no	no
CD-ROM drive	24x modular	24x built-in	20x built-in
Floppy disk drive	built-in	built-in	built-in
DESIGN			
Weight (kg)	3.2	3.2	3.0
Dimensions (W x D x H, in mm)	308 x 251 x 45	297 x 239 x 46	294 x 237 x 48
Pointing device	TouchPad	TouchPad	Touch Pad
CONNECTIVITY			
Ports[1]	1s, 1p	1s, 1p	1s, 1p
USB	1	1	2
IrDA	1	1	1
PS/2	1	1	1
Monitor	yes	yes	yes
TV/Video out	yes	no	yes
Modem	no	56K PC Card	no
Network	no	no	no
Replicator/docking port	yes	no	yes
Security lock	yes	yes	yes
PC CARDS			
Type II	2	2	2
Type III	1	1	1
CardBus	yes	yes	yes
Zoomed Video	yes	yes	yes
DISPLAY & GRAPHICS			
Screen type	Super Clear Colour (SCC)	Active TFT	Active TFT
Screen size (inches)	12.1	12.1	12.1
Maximum resolution & colours	800 x 600 at 16.7million colours	800 x 600 at 16-bit colours	1024 x 768 at 64K colours
Graphics controller	NeoMagic NMG4 2160B	Trident 9385	NeoMagic MagicGraph 128XD
Graphics memory	2MB EDO	2MB VRAM	2MB
AUDIO			
Sound controller	ESS Maestro	ESS 1869	Sound Blaster Pro compatible
Ports[1]	line-in/out	line-out, mic	line-in/out, mic, hp (heaphones included), volume control
Built-in speakers	Stereo	Stereo	Stereo
Built-in microphone	yes	yes	yes
BATTERY			
Type	Li-Ion	NiMH	Li-Ion
Stated life	4 hours	2 hours	5 hours
SOFTWARE & BUNDLING			
Operating system	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95
Other titles	PC-Cillin, Safe Off, Quiet Boot, Sleep Manager, Notebook Manager, LANDesk Client Manager, Lotus SmartSuite 97	none	MS Office 97 SBE
Carry case included	no	yes	yes
SERVICE & SUPPORT			
Warranty	3 years local, 1 year international	1 year on-site	3 years
Phone support	yes	yes	yes
Internet	www.acer.com.au	www.trogoncomputer.com	www.gw2k.com.au
BBS	(02) 9878 2318	no	(02) 9641 2445
RRP	$3999	$3499	$4199

[1]Port abbreviations: s=serial, p=parallel, g=games

MicroGram Computers

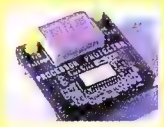
Hard Drive Recovery Card



FORMAT, FDISK, VIRUS.....OOPS! Recover data from your hard drive after FDISK, FORMAT or DELETE commands or even after virus attacks. Supports DOS, Windows 3.x, Windows 95, OS/2 and Windows NT.

Cat. No. 3374 **Hard Drive Recovery Card** $149

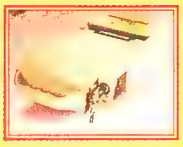
CPU Voltage Checker



Avoid CPU burnout! Make sure you have the motherboard jumpers set correctly. This unit checks and displays the voltage on the CPU socket before the CPU is inserted. Ideal for those who upgrade systems, install motherboards, sell processors, build systems, service and repair or for educators and schools.

Cat. No. 3365 **CPU Voltage Checker** $99

Removable Hard Drive Kits



Consists of a 5.25" mounting rack & a removable tray for 3.5" hard drives. A keylock prevents inadvertent or unauthorised removal. Applications include:

- securing confidential data in a safe overnight
- providing off-site backups
- easy interchange of OS (eg DOS to Windows NT) by simply replacing drives

Cat. No. 6049	**IDE Kit**	$111
Cat. No. 6048	**SCSI Kit**	$121
Cat. No. 6200 / 6224	**IDE Tray / Frame Only**	$70
Cat. No. 6201 / 6225	**SCSI Tray / Frame Only**	$76
Cat. No. 6327	**SCSI Fast Wide**	$169

Hi- Scan Bar Code Readers

High resolution CCD barcode scanners which feature multi-interface communication with RS-232C, Wand & Keyboard Emulation in one unit. Simply release the RJ-45 jack to change cables! Offering optical performance with a minium resolution of 0.125 mm & maximum reading distance of 20 mm it is possible to read high-density, laminated & acrylic-covered bar codes.

Cat. No. 8458 **Hi Scan Bar Code Reader KB Wedge** $699

Also available, *Long Range* CCD bar code scanners which offer variable width and depth of field.

Cat. No. 8489 **CCD Bar Code Scanner Long Range KB** $469

As well as our standard range.

Cat. No.8196 **CCD Bar Code Scanner KB Wedge 80mm** $359

Multi-PC Controller 8 Way 2 Control

A controller with two control keyboards, monitors, mice and sound equipment which allow two operators simultaneous access to eight computers (not the same computer). Auto scan or manual selection (key strokes or switch) of the PC's is provided. This desktop model is designed for multi file server installations and the controllers can be daisy chained to provide two consoles with control over 64 computers. It can be located on the desktop or mounted in a 19" rack.

Cat. No. 11637 **Multi-PC Controller 8 way 2 Control** $1999
Cat. No. 11636 **Multi-PC Controller 4 Way 2 Control** $899

Internal UPS & Power Supply

It's not just a UPS but also a 300W power supply. The UPS is actually built into a standard size power supply and the batteries and front panel occupy a 5.25in drive bay. The UPS is rated at 500VA. Apart from power failure, the UPS also protects against over voltage, under voltage, overload & DC short circuit. The unit is available in two sizes - PS/2 or ATX. Optional software provides for automatic shutdown.

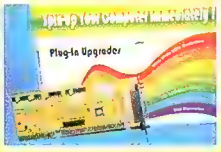
Cat. No. 8498	**UPS / PS (PS/2) Int 500VA/300W**	$429
Cat. No. 8588	**UPS / PS (ATX) Int 500VA/300W**	$399
Cat. No. 8499	**UPS / PS Internal RUPS S'ware**	$99

Year 2000 BIOS Card

Even Pentium motherboards are not immune to the Year 2000 bug! The Year 2000 BIOS Card solves the problem of progression from 1999 to 2000 as well as 21st century leap years. It is an 8-bit card which provides year 2000 support for motherboards with a BIOS which only stores the year with two digits. i.e. 97 instead of 1997.

Cat. No. 3359 **Year 2000 BIOS Card** $129

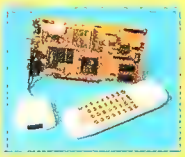
Bi-directional & ECP/EPP Printer Cards



Bi-directional parallel ports with an 83 byte FIFO buffer, configurable from LPT1 to LPT6 and set on interrupts 3 to 15. Achieve data transfer rates up to 1Mb/sec with ECP/EPP. Both ports provide 7 selectable I/O port addresses and 10 selectable IRQ's. The single port ECP/EPP card provides 7 DMA channels while the dual port card provides two DMA channels.

Cat. No. 2314	**Bi-directional 1 Port**	$45
Cat. No. 2315	**Bi-directional 2 Port**	$61
Cat. No. 2316	**Bi-directional 3 Port**	$97
Cat. No. 2235	**ECP/EPP 1 Port**	$79
Cat. No. 2236	**ECP/EPP 2 Port**	$94

TV & Capture PCI Card



The TV tuner displays real-time video images on your computer screen. It includes its own television tuner to accept television signals via cable or broadcast TV. It also can play audio/video from external video players like VCRs and camcorders.

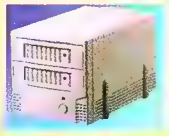
Cat. No. 3357 **TV & Capture PCI Card** $369

Multi-Network Cable Tester Pro

This Plug and Play advanced design cable tester will test both 10Base-T (Category 3-5) and 10Base-2 (Coax) cable within seconds. It runs all tests automatically and LED's indicate the results. It will test cable continuity, open pairs, shorted pairs, crossed pairs or reversed pairs.

Cat. No. 11515 **Multi-Network Cable Tester Pro** $259

External Case for CD-ROM or HD



No more overheating! A cooling fan and ventilated front panel allow free air flow. A versatile external case for two 3.5" or 5.25" SCSI half height hard disk drives or CD ROM drives, tape drives etc. Featuring a built-in 80W power supply. Models for 4 & 9 drives also available.

Cat. No. 6384 **Ext Case 2 x HDD or CD ROM SCSI** $199

Surge Suppressors

Protect your equipment & networks against power fluctuations, spikes, cross talk, induced transients & close proximity lightning strikes.

Cat. No. 8386	**RS232**	**DB25**	$79
Cat. No. 8387	**RS422**	**DB15**	$59

Complete 10BaseT protection.

Cat. No. 8388 **10BaseT RJ45 1 Port** $59

Compact Multimedia FM Radio Receiver

A high quality FM stereo radio that simply plugs into a serial port while a stereo RCA cable connects to a sound card. An antenna also plugs into the unit. Fully clickable controls enable you to scan the frequencies from 87.5 to 108MHz, tune a particular station and name it as one of ten preset stations.

Cat. No. 3304 **Wizard Radio FM Radio Receiver** $79

E & OE All prices include sales tax **MICROGRAM 0898**

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Good health for your PC

Some utilities may be hazardous to your PC's health. Others are just what the doctor ordered.

By Dean Andrews, Harry McCracken and Lincoln Spector

ILLUSTRATION: TIM BOWER

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Defragmenters	108
Crash prevention and recovery	109

Ever notice how computing can sound hazardous to your health? We talk of crashing, freezing, or even corrupting our FAT. Yuk. Which is why Windows utilities are like healthcare for your PC.

It starts with "healthy habits" utilities – programs that promote high-efficiency, low-stress computing. For example, keeping your files in good order with a file manager means that you won't need to reach for the Quick-Eze next time you need that spreadsheet you created back in 1994. Or suppose you simply must save a couple of dozen screen shots from the way-cool Web site you found last night. Avoid hard drive cramping by squashing those JPEGs down to size with a file zipper. And what about that IS guy who sends his reports in XyWrite? A handy file viewer will let you look at almost any file that comes your way.

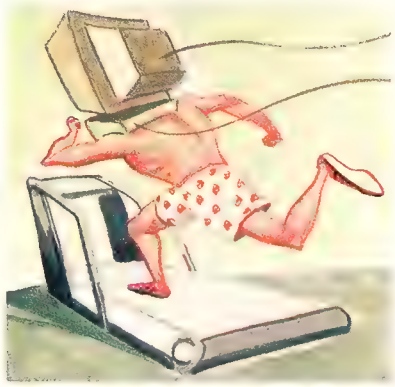
But sometimes even the healthiest PC needs a good MD. Diagnostic programs are like general practitioners, giving your system an overall checkup and pinpointing potential problems. Disk scanners are radiologists, examining your hard drive for trouble. Uninstallers clean your system of old applications and orphaned DLLs; call them the interns. And disk defragmenters? The psychiatrists of the PC world, they do their best to put your drive's scattered contents back in order.

Finally, there's the emergency room. When disaster strikes, crash recovery programs can help your computer get back on its feet.

But like doctors, all utilities aren't created equal. To separate the experts from the quacks, we reviewed 28 products – including Windows' built-in tools and two do-it-alls, Norton Utilities and Nuts & Bolts. The diagnosis? There are gems, but snake-oil salesmen still thrive.

Just as different hospitals offer different services, different operating systems offer varied utilities. In "The future of utilities", we take a look at those in Windows 98 and in a future version of Windows NT. And because any PC surgery carries risks, "Bad Medicine" warns of dangers these programs can present.

Demo or trial versions of the products with this icon can be installed from our cover CD-ROM.



HEALTHY HABITS
File managers

When it comes to managing files – copying, moving, sorting – Microsoft didn't make life easy: Windows Explorer, provided with Windows 95 and NT 4.0, is less powerful than Windows 3.1's File Manager in some respects. Fortunately, utility vendors have filled the file-management void. All of the file managers here let you copy, move and juggle files more efficiently than does Windows Explorer. Some of them add file viewing, zipping and other extras.

DRAG AND FILE GOLD 4.17

Pro: Lots of file management tools, file transfer protocol feature, desktop toolbar

Con: More expensive than Best Buy

What would Windows 3.1's File Manager look like if Microsoft had continued developing it? A lot like Canyon Software's excellent Drag and File Gold 4.17. At $US50, this handy utility restores vital features that Windows Explorer omitted, including a dual-window view and file filtering (letting you see, for instance, bmp files only). You can also zip and unzip files, do FTP transfers across the Net, use a customisable toolbar to open drive windows and launch programs from the desktop, and synchronise two directories to ensure that they contain the same version of files (handy if you take work to and from the office). If you integrate the program with Win 95's Quick View or Canyon's own Drag and View, you get a built-in file viewer, too. If you don't need zipping tools, save $US20 with the non-Gold version. Though it's a great program, Drag and File costs more than our Best Buy, PowerDesk Utilities 98 – and if you plan to buy several utilities, every dollar counts.

Canyon Software
www.canyonsw.com

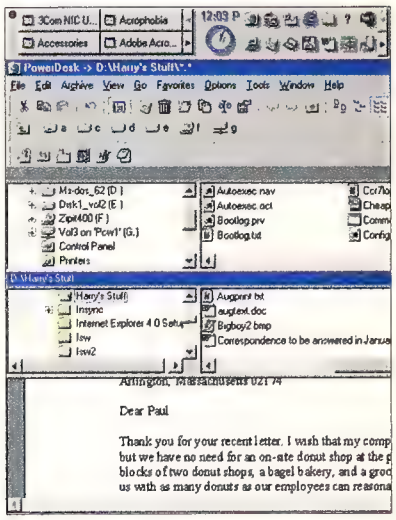
POWERDESK UTILITIES 98

Pro: Widest variety of features, including encryption and a disk-space gauge

Con: Cluttered toolbar

Mijenix's impressive PowerDesk Utilities 98 looks and works much like Drag and File Gold – only with a slightly larger lineup of tools, and for less money. Like that package, it restores features of Windows 3.1 File Manager missing from Win 95's Explorer, adds synchronisation and zipped archive tools, and integrates with Inso's Quick View Plus. It also has built-in encryption and decryption, plus Size Manager, a bar graph of how much space folders use. Unfortunately, PowerDesk's customisable toolbar is crowded and unattractive. Still, for $69.95, this Best Buy is the most economical way to boost your productivity in Windows.

Software Suppliers
Phone: (02) 9888 1955
www.mijenix.com



Dual drive and a viewer plane are among PowerDesk's many improvements over Windows Explorer

TURBO BROWSER 98 6.01
Pro: Built-in file viewing, graphics conversion and batch processing
Con: Can't display multiple folder views, no floating toolbar, pricey

Though Pacific Gold Coast's Turbo Browser 98 6.01 substantially improves on Windows Explorer, it's costlier ($99, plus $4 shipping and handling) and less intuitive than either Drag and File or PowerDesk. Turbo Browser provides plenty of useful file management features, including zipped archive tools and graphics conversion; it also offers the Qbar, a unique way to queue up batches of files for later zipping or unzipping, conversion and viewing. Built-in filters handle the program's file viewer for a few formats, and the feature's compatibility with Microsoft's ActiveX enables it to display Office 97 files faithfully. Unlike the other file managers here, however, Turbo Browser assumes a high level of technical savvy.

DP Computing
Phone: (08) 8326 4364
www.turbobrowser.com

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pc world BEST BUY

If you'd rather not buy a separate file manager, disk scanner and so on, go for a utilities suite. Of these, Nuts & Bolts sports a simple interface and file management tools. If you need more robust utilities — and better defragging and recovery — pick the slightly more expensive Norton Utilities.

FILE MANAGER Mijenix's PowerDesk Utilities 98 is everything Windows Explorer should have been, and more. You get the best of Explorer and the Windows 3.1 File Manager, plus encryption and file synchronisation.

FILE COMPRESSOR Mijenix's ZipMagic lets your zipped archives act like standard Windows folders, so you can use the files without unzipping them.

FILE VIEWER There are many pluses in Inso's Quick View Plus 4.5: this easy-to-use upgrade to Windows' Quick View adds support for dozens of file formats. Built-in unzipping and other features help make strange files easier to manage.

DIAGNOSTICS Alas, no product stood out as a stand-alone diagnostic program. But if you want a good crash recovery utility, see "Crash prevention and recovery", on page 109.

DISK SCANNER The Disk Minder utility included in Nuts & Bolts (from Network Associates) is the best disk scanner around, repairing damaged files that the other products we tested couldn't. It's also the fastest of the bunch.

UNINSTALLER The best overall performer in our tests was CyberMedia's Uninstaller 4.51. The program removes newly installed applications flawlessly, and its interface and documentation are easy to understand.

DEFRAGMENTER Speed Disk, part of Symantec's Norton Utilities, is the fastest and best at defragmenting.

CRASH PREVENTION AND RECOVERY With its familiar browserlike interface, CyberMedia's First Aid 98 Deluxe is the best crash recovery utility.

File compressors

In a thoughtless blow to Bill and Doris User, Microsoft didn't provide any way to work with compressed zip files in Windows 95 — essential for anyone who downloads from the Web, archives old files, or shuttles large files via e-mail or floppy. Though the basic zipping tools built into many file managers and viewers are okay for casual use, serious zipperheads require a stand-alone package. We tested each package's ability to zip and unzip files correctly (which all do) and paid special attention to its ease of use and installation.

EZIP WIZARD 2.0
Pro: Very simple wizard, free for unzipping
Con: Bare-bones features

Unlike most of the competition, EdiSys's EZip Wizard 2.0 can't create self-extracting files or handle rare compression formats such as TAR. All it does is zip and unzip files, with a plain-English wizard so utterly simple that WinZip and PKZip seem like brain surgery in comparison. A handy option lets you keep the wizard in front of other applications on your desktop, so you can quickly leave another program to zip or unzip an archive. The shareware EZip, which can both zip and unzip, costs $US29.95 to register; if you relinquish the power to zip, it's free forever.

EdiSys
www.edisys.com

MICROHELP ZIP 1.1
Pro: Familiar Explorer-style interface
Con: No wizard, few features beyond the basics

Take Windows Explorer and add an extra pane for zipped archives — that's Luckman Interactive's $US30 MicroHelp Zip 1.1 in a nutshell. This inexpensive utility is simple to learn: just drag files back and forth between the zipping pane and the folder view to compress or decompress them. It also has a few nice capabilities that Explorer lacks, including filtering and a customisable toolbar. But while MicroHelp Zip does the basics well, it's short on distinctive features: it offers nothing to rival WinZip's autoinstall feature, Zip-It's browser integration, or ZipMagic's integrated file viewing.

Luckman Interactive
www.luckman.com

PKZIP 2.60 FOR WINDOWS
Pro: Decent wizard, includes advanced features
Con: Clunky user interface

The original zip file utility still gets the job done, but it lacks the conveniences of our Best Buy, ZipMagic, and its closest rival, WinZip. To its credit, PKZip 2.60 has a straightforward

wizard, and its standard interface provides lots of advanced tools (you can open files from various compression formats, for example). But since it has no viewing ability or tools for quickly installing an application from zipped files or looking at files within an archive, PKZip takes more steps than the best packages to put an unzipped archive to work. And at a street price of about $55, PKZip is one of the least expensive zip utilities here.

Pkware
www.pkware.com

WINZIP 6.3

Pro: Friendly interface, has both wizard and classic modes, lots of online help
Con: Wizard doesn't zip files

Whether you're new to the world of zip files or an old pro, Nico Mak Computing's shareware favourite WinZip — now in version 6.3 — is worth a test drive. On the street for approximately $65, this utility's attractive interface and outstanding online help make it a pleasure to use, and its wizard automatically searches your system and provides you with a list of archives for unzipping. (Unlike the wizards of EZip Wizard and PKZip, however, WinZip's can't zip files.) The "classic" interface automatically senses archives containing applications and lets you install them with one click; you can also turn files in an archive into a Windows program group that your system will delete automatically when you're done with it. WinZip doesn't simplify working with archives as radically as ZipMagic does, but if you want a more traditional file decompression utility at a good price, it's a solid alternative.

Nico Mak Computing
www.winzip.com

ZIP-IT 4.0

Pro: Includes browser plug-ins, can search for text within archives
Con: No wizard, special features work only with Web sites that use Quarterdeck's server

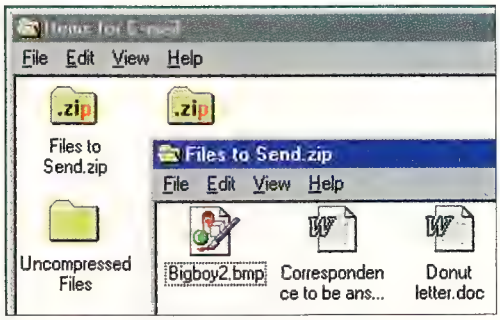
The Web is a prime source of zipped archives that need decompressing, and Quarterdeck's $79.95 Zip-It 4.0 has a Web-centric feel. It comes with plug-ins that let you unzip files from within the big two browsers without launching a separate program. Unfortunately, two of its most promising features (downloading zip files from a Web site within Zip-It and selectively downloading and unzipping files within an archive across the Net) work only with the roughly 400 Web sites that use Quarterdeck's I-Zip server. Because the software lacks a wizard and uses dialogue boxes jam-packed with technical options, it's better suited to advanced users than to neophytes. Aside from its Web features, Zip-It's a capable but undistinguished zip utility.

Quarterdeck
www.quarterdeck.com

ZIPMAGIC 1.0

Pro: Practically effortless zipping and unzipping, built-in file manager and viewer
Con: Needs to be temporarily disabled in certain situations, incompatible with Windows NT

Install Mijenix's ingenious ZipMagic 1.0, and you may forget you're using file compression. Our $69.95 Best Buy integrates itself so deeply into the operating system that zipped archives are virtually indistinguishable from standard folders. You can browse through them with Windows Explorer, launch applications without decompressing them, and even open and save zipped documents from within any program. ZipMagic also includes Archive Manager, a more traditional compression utility containing a viewer pane that integrates with Windows Quick View. The only two drawbacks: it isn't compatible with Windows NT, and when you don't want zip files to act like folders, you must momentarily disable the utility — but even that process is easily done from within most dialogue boxes.



ZipMagic's innovative technology turns zipped archives into standard folders you can open on Windows' desktop

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Software Suppliers
Phone: (02) 9888 1955
www.mijenix.com

File viewers

Unless your co-workers and friends all use exactly the same applications you do, you'll find it worthwhile to invest in a file viewer. These stand-alone products go well beyond the bare-bones capabilities of Windows' Quick View utility, which can't handle newer formats such as Microsoft's own Office 97 files and has almost no extra capabilities (such as file compression). Third-party viewers allow you to view and print documents created in a wide variety of applications without having to load those programs.

DRAG AND VIEW 4.0A

Pro: Inexpensive, with great image processing and conversion features
Con: Doesn't retain formatting, doesn't unzip files, supports fewer file types than other packages

If you're mainly interested in working with bitmapped graphics files, Canyon Software's $US30 Drag and View 4.0a is your best choice among file viewers. Like a full-fledged image editor, for example, it lets you adjust colour and resolution. Otherwise, Drag and View lags behind all of its competitors: it can't identify files that lack the correct extension, and it displays unrecognised files as rubbish or in alarming hexadecimal form. Drag and View also has trouble handling less popular word processing, spreadsheet and

The future of utilities

Windows 95 comes with basic system utilities. Will Windows 98 or Windows NT 5.0 improve on them? We looked at prerelease versions of both and found that their disk scanning and file manipulation differ little from Windows 95's, but both add diagnostic and crash recovery tools.

The two operating systems will have many tools in common. Their ScanDisk scanner will cover FAT16 and FAT32 disks, and NT will also cover NT File System, versions 4 and 5. As for file management, both OSs will offer Windows Explorer and Internet Explorer, but neither will improve on Win 95's file management. For file viewing, Quick View works as in Win 95. Win 98's updated Disk Defragmenter organises your most-used files so that they load the fastest; NT 5.0's defragger isn't set yet.

The two OSs diverge in diagnostics, uninstalling and crash tools. Win 98 includes the troubleshooting System Configuration Utility; the Version Conflict Manager, which prevents saving old files over new; and the System File Checker. Add/Remove Programs remains, but Disk Cleanup empties the Recycle Bin and Internet cache. Win 98 also updates Win 3.1's Dr. Watson diagnostics; the new Automatic Skip Driver Agent watches for driver failures, and the Registry Checker cleans up the Registry.

NT 5.0 will integrate those functions into new core features. The Programs Wizard will centralise software installation to prevent conflicts and enable safe uninstalls, while the Hardware Wizard will configure hardware and fix bad device installations.

- Shane Rau

database file types; and it displays those it does support as plain text.

Canyon Software
www.canyonsw.com

E-TTACHMENT OPENER 1.0

Pro: Converts file attachments, unzips files
Con: Can't zoom the display or print out a file without launching the file's application first

The good news: your co-worker finally e-mailed you that report. The bad news: it became a flood of garbage characters when you opened it. Time to call in DataViz's $121 E-ttachment Opener 1.0 ($299 when bundled with DataViz's Conversions Plus). This file viewer specialises in rescuing attachments that get turned into gobbledygook as a result of UUencode, BinHex or MIME conversion: just copy the garbage to the Clipboard, and E-ttachment Opener turns it into a viewable file. (Quick View Plus and KeyView Pro handle the same problem, but less elegantly.) Judged strictly as a file viewer, though, E-ttachment Opener is a mixed bag. Though it can unzip files and offers more file formats than Drag and View — including many for the Mac — it falls far short of Quick View Plus and KeyView Pro in recognising arcane PC file types. And it can't zoom in to show you the display at different magnification levels or print a document without opening it first. Nevertheless, if your e-mail program is turning attachments into junk, E-ttachment Opener may well be worth considering.

Conexus
Phone: (02) 9975 2799
www.dataviz.com

KEYVIEW PRO 6.0

Pro: Supports many file types, converts various file formats, compresses and decompresses files
Con: Can't display databases

In many respects, Verity Software's KeyView Pro 6.0 gives Quick View Plus, our Best Buy, some pretty tough competition. Like that package, it's easy to use and supports more than 200 file types, and it does nearly as good a job of preserving documents' fonts and formatting. It goes beyond the basics, too, letting you compress and decompress files in various formats and convert word processing documents, spreadsheet files and graphics files. Considering these extra features and its $69.95 RRP, KeyView Pro would be neck-and-neck with Quick View Plus for Best Buy status if not for one glaring omission: it's the only viewer here that can't display databases. If you never, ever use database files and you want to save $30, KeyView is worth considering. But for a more complete package, stick with Quick View Plus, our Best Buy.

Marketing Results
Phone: (02) 9899 5888
www.keyview.com

QUICK VIEW PLUS 4.5

Pro: Easy to use, tight integration with Windows, supports a wide range of file formats, unzips files
Con: Most expensive viewer

As its name suggests, Inso's Quick View Plus 4.5 is a beefed-up version of the Quick View utility that's built into Windows 95. It's just as easy to use, and it adds more than 170 formats to Quick View's skimpy 30, including oldies like WordStar, newcomers such as Word 97, and some Macintosh types. Though no viewer displays every document perfectly, Quick View Plus does the best job of preserving fancy formatting, and it integrates into any program that works with Quick View. Our only complaint: the version we tested couldn't view Microsoft PowerPoint 97 or Lotus Word Pro files. (Inso was finishing up a PowerPoint filter at press time, and a Word Pro filter is available on Lotus's Web site.) At $99 RRP, it's also a bit expensive. These hitches aside, Quick View Plus's simplicity and file-format fluency make it our Best Buy. A version for Unix is also available.

Software Suppliers
Phone: (02) 9888 1955
www.inso.com

THE DOCTORS
Diagnostics

Unlike disk scanners and defraggers, diagnostics utilities aren't essential — and that's a relief, because the programs we tested all failed to find, much less fix, problems with our computer. We looked at the diagnostic abilities of Norton Utilities and Nuts & Bolts, as well as two programs (BCM Diagnostics and CheckIt 5.0) that check only hardware, and two (First Aid 98 and RealHelp Extra Strength) that integrate hardware and software diagnostics. None did well enough to merit Best Buy status.

To evaluate hardware diagnostics, we came up with two entirely plausible problems. First we plugged in two conflicting sound cards. Then we installed a floppy drive with bent connector pins. During testing, we discovered an inadvertent third problem — our PC incorrectly thought a Zip drive was installed. To test each program's software-diagnosing skills, we created two Windows Registry errors: we hid an exe file that Windows uses at start-up, and we botched the Registry entry for 1-2-3's map templates.

BCM DIAGNOSTICS

Pro: Quick, simple, inexpensive
Con: Tends to crash, caught no problems

This shareware Control Panel look-alike is fast, cheap (the registration fee is $US25), and easy to use; but it's also limited. It froze when confronted with the two conflicting sound cards, and it deemed our damaged floppy drive simply "not ready". The same thing could be said of BCM Diagnostics.

BCM Advanced Research
www.bcmgvc.com

CHECKIT 5.0

Pro: Found one problem that most other programs missed
Con: Failed to identify any of our test problems, confusing interface

When you launch CheckIt 5.0, you'll probably see the message "You Have a Problem". Sadly, one problem is that you're using CheckIt. The $79.95 RRP utility couldn't handle the sound-card conflict. And like every other program here, it saw the damaged A: drive as empty. To be fair, CheckIt found the missing Zip drive, but its recommendation wasn't very helpful.

Marketing Results
Phone: (02) 9899 5888
www.touchstonesoftware.com

DISCOVER PRO/REGISTRY WIZARD (NUTS & BOLTS)

Pro: Less expensive than Norton Utilities
Con: Missed every problem we tested

In many areas, such as file handling, Nuts & Bolts beats Norton Utilities. But Nuts & Bolts's diagnostics tool, Discover Pro, is as inept as Norton Diagnostics at detecting hardware glitches. We also tried the package's Registry Wizard to see if it could find either software problem (both in the Registry); it found 79 "orphans" (Registry references to files, folders and programs that aren't there), but none we had planted. If you need hard-core diagnostics, skip the $99 Nuts & Bolts.

Network Associates
Phone: (02) 9437 5866
www.nai.com

FIRST AID 98 DELUXE

Pro: Hardware and Windows diagnostics in one
Con: Didn't find any of the test problems

For $99.95, First Aid 98 Deluxe combines hardware and Windows diagnostics in one program with one Check-Up button. Too bad it missed all of our test problems. Like CheckIt, it did find the unintended Zip drive problem; unlike CheckIt, it suggested fixes. It doesn't test floppy drives but does discuss them in its hard-to-find knowledge base. Finally, it noted neither Registry error. (First Aid 97 is the version on our cover CD.)

CyberMedia
Phone: 1800 621 399
au.cybermedia.com

NORTON DIAGNOSTICS/ WINDOCTOR (NORTON UTILITIES)

Pro: Found and fixed one Registry orphan
Con: Very weak hardware diagnostics

Norton Utilities includes separate hardware and software diagnostics tools. Norton Diagnostics (the hardware part) is a complete clunker; WinDoctor (software) is the best of a sorry lot. Norton Diagnostics failed to see our sound-card conflict and concluded that the misinstalled drive was empty. WinDoctor found and fixed the hidden exe file but didn't notice our other Registry flaw. If you already own the package, stick with it, but don't pay $129 for its diagnostics alone.

Symantec
Phone: (02) 9850 1000
www.symantec.com.au

Quarterdeck's RealHelp provides simple one-click access to a thorough diagnosis of your hardware and software. Too bad it couldn't identify all of our PC's problems

Bad medicine: quirks to watch for in your utilities

Vendors make broad claims about their utilities' abilities, but you won't often hear about their hazards. Uninstallers can be especially dangerous.

Their most difficult task is removing applications installed before the uninstaller. Quarterdeck's Remove-It 98 4.0 was a bit overzealous — particularly when, in the process of removing Excel, it deleted several shared Microsoft Office files, preventing Word from loading. Fortunately, Remove-It (like most others) provides a backup feature. In addition, Remove-It (like some others) shows you a list of the files it plans to remove. Cautious users will take advantage of both these features.

Uninstallers aren't the only risky utilities. During our crash recovery testing of RealHelp Extra Strength 1.0, we inserted the rescue disk. But the program asked for the volume label, as if it were password protected, and would not let us continue until we entered it. Caught by surprise, we had to get the volume label from another PC. The lesson? Test your rescue disks. You'll be sure they boot correctly, and you can discover unusual requirements in advance.

Bugs present another risk. First Aid 98 Deluxe, for example, had loading problems if installed after Internet Explorer 4.0 (a fix has been posted on the Web). Norton had difficulties with its Zip rescue feature (also patched online). And Nuts & Bolts has been plagued with glitches in its system maintenance utility (since fixed). If you find bugs in utility software, check the company's Web site for upgrades.

REALHELP EXTRA STRENGTH 1.0

Pro: Diagnoses hardware and Windows
Con: Failed most of the tests

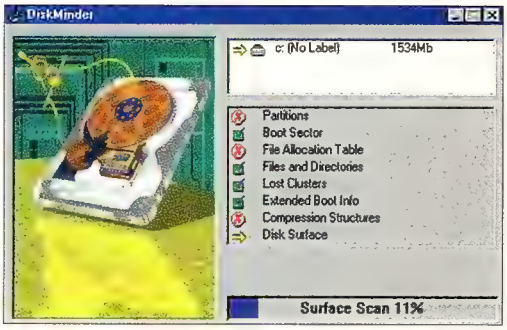
Like First Aid, the $99.95 RealHelp Extra Strength 1.0 integrates hardware and Windows diagnostics. Unlike First Aid, RealHelp noted our sound-card and floppy problems. But it didn't offer workable solutions: it reported the damaged floppy drive as empty, and its Find-A-Fix knowledge base had nothing helpful to offer. It failed to see the missing Zip drive. Like Norton's WinDoctor, it fixed our hidden exe file but missed the orphaned 1-2-3 folder.

Quarterdeck
Phone: 1800 659 041
www.quarterdeck.com

Disk scanners

Hard drives develop errors, both physical (on the surface of the disk) and logical (in the data itself). A good disk scanner should catch and correct problems of both sorts before they become serious. Ideally, you should perform a quick scan every day to check logical integrity, and a thorough scan every couple of weeks to check for scratches.

No major software company markets a stand-alone disk scanner, but Windows 95, Norton Utilities and Nuts & Bolts all include scanners of their own. To pick the best, we created three common logical problems on a 2GB hard drive: a corrupted file allocation table (or FAT, which monitors available disk clusters and tracks the clusters that contain each file's data); lost or orphaned clusters (available clusters the FAT thinks are in use); and cross-linked files (two files the FAT thinks end in the same sequence of clusters). To test each package's ability to detect physical damage, we pricked a floppy disk with a pin and let the scanners try to salvage the data.



Nuts & Bolts' Disk Minder races through your drive, finding and fixing errors. It does the best job of salvaging damaged files

DISK DOCTOR (NORTON UTILITIES)

Pro: Fast, includes undo feature
Con: Couldn't save file in pinprick test

Disk Doctor (part of Norton Utilities) did a good job with major problems, but other programs were better at surface scanning. On the plus side, it's easy to use (though it has goofy animation), fast (a quick scan took 16 seconds and a thorough scan under six minutes), and offers a reassuring undo feature. It found and fixed all our logical problems, but in our floppy pinprick test it didn't repair the damaged file and wouldn't let us copy it to the hard drive. It's a good tool, just not the best.

Symantec
Phone: (02) 9850 1000
www.symantec.com.au

DISK MINDER (NUTS & BOLTS)

Pro: Best damaged-file repair, fastest
Con: Insufficient reports

Nuts & Bolts' Disk Minder is the best utility we found for scanning a hard drive. For one thing, it's the fastest: on the quick scan, Disk Minder took just over seven seconds — nine faster than Norton's Disk Doctor, and 22 seconds ahead of Windows 95's ScanDisk. And like Disk Doctor, it offers an easy interface and an undo feature. Even better, it's the only disk scanner that passed our pinprick test, letting us copy a damaged file to our hard drive. Our only complaint: though Disk Minder gives you a detailed error report, it's the only disk scanner that doesn't tell you which file is damaged. Otherwise, it's our fave.

Network Associates
Phone: (02) 9437 5866
www.nai.com

SCANDISK (WINDOWS 95)

Pro: The price is right
Con: Very slow, no undo feature

ScanDisk — the disk scanner included as part of Windows 3.x, Windows 95 and NT — is as slow as a semi in peak-hour traffic. In our tests, a quick scan took just under 30 seconds, but a thorough scan took more than half an hour. You might as well head out for a bite to eat. Once ScanDisk is finished, however, its results are as good as Norton Disk Doctor's. And as with most disk scanners, this one is easy to use. It found every error and fixed them all (except for the pinpricked floppy, that is). Unfortunately, ScanDisk lacks the undo feature that other scanners include. If you're willing to spend a little money, you can do better.

Microsoft Australia
Phone: (02) 9870 2200
www.microsoft.com.au

Uninstallers

Because Windows 95's Add/Remove Programs tool does such a spotty job of removing applications, and because installations can litter your hard drive and Windows Registry, you need a stand-alone uninstaller. These utilities, aside from removing unwanted applications, can also get rid of invalid Registry entries, obsolete Internet cache files, and other unnecessary junk. Because they can track the changes that new software makes to a hard disk, uninstallers are at their best when removing files that were installed after the uninstaller was added. In general, these utilities have a harder time removing previously installed software because they must guess which components to remove.

Our testing was simple: we asked the uninstaller programs to remove both preexisting and newly installed software. To determine the products' efficacy, we compared the number of files on the "cleaned-up" hard drive to the number on the drive before we installed any of the applications.

CLEANSWEEP EXTRA STRENGTH 4.0

Pro: Uninstalls well, removes Internet files, Registry Genie lets you edit the Windows Registry
Con: Expensive

CleanSweep Extra Strength ranks third in this crowd. It launches three background agent programs that remove unwanted Internet files, watch new installations and monitor disk activity. Another tool deletes redundant DLL files, orphans and duplicate files, while Registry Genie explains what different Registry entries mean. Though the $89.95 CleanSweep is powerful, it costs $20 more than our Best Buy, Uninstaller.

Quarterdeck
Phone: 1800 659 041
www.quarterdeck.com

NORTON UNINSTALL DELUXE

Pro: Nice extra utilities, good reports
Con: Removes fewer files than Uninstaller, can't perform multiple installations

Symantec's $59 Norton Uninstall Deluxe removed fewer unneeded files than our two front-runners: it left 74 more files on our drive than were there originally; in comparison, CyberMedia's Uninstaller left 17, and PowerCleaner left 21. It also can't do multiple installations; it keeps a log of only your latest install. But the package does have useful tools for deleting unneeded files and invalid Registry entries, and for background-monitoring and graphically reporting disk usage. Symantec's Live Update offers program fixes and updates via the Web. Norton's documentation and interface are easy to use, but you'll get better performance for $10 more with our Best Buy.

Symantec
Phone: (02) 9850 1000
www.symantec.com.au

POWERCLEANER 1.51 FOR WINDOWS 95

Pro: Best with preinstalled apps, lets you modify list of files before it deletes them
Con: No Internet updates, no automatic monitor for new installs

Coming in a close second, Alpha's $US30 PowerCleaner 1.51 did the best job of removing preinstalled applications, but wasn't as good with new installations. To monitor new applications, you must start the install process from within PowerCleaner; it has no background monitor. Still, the program lets you see and modify the list of intended deletions before it removes them. And you can delete, move or archive files, or transfer them to another PC. Optimisers track and remove duplicate and orphan files.

Alpha Software
www.alphasoftware.com

REMOVE-IT 98 4.0

Pro: Inexpensive, backs up apps before deletion
Con: Deletes files that remaining apps need

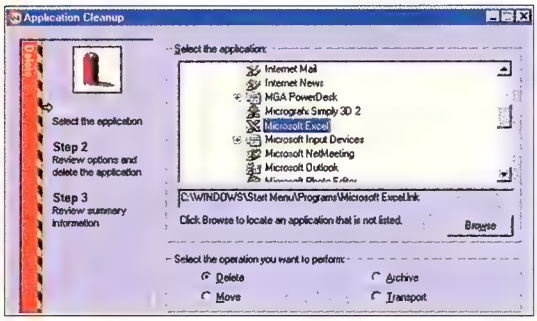
Though at $39.95 it is the cheapest uninstaller here, Remove-It 98 can be dangerous: when we asked it to delete Microsoft Excel, it also removed some shared Microsoft Office files, crippling Word. Fortunately, Remove-It backs up apps before removing them. Its interface is clean and simple, and a background monitor watches for new installations while you work. And its database includes the file extensions for over 1200 programs; Remove-It refers to these during application deletion. As a bonus, it also builds an emergency crash recovery disk. But it's a tad too aggressive for our tastes.

Quarterdeck
Phone: 1800 659 041
www.quarterdeck.com

UNINSTALLER 4.51

Pro: Most effective with new apps, nice graphical reports
Con: Less effective with preinstalled apps

CyberMedia's $69.95 Uninstaller came closest to returning our hard disk to its original state, especially with new applications. It had a little more trouble with preinstalled ones. For example, when we tried to delete Excel, it deleted only Excel's Shortcut. Like other packages, it lets you delete, move, archive and transfer apps to another PC, and its intuitive interface,



CyberMedia's Uninstaller lets you delete, move, or archive applications, or transport them to another computer

documentation and reports make it useful for all levels of users. Like a good cleanup crew, it's quick, thorough and unobtrusive.

CyberMedia
Phone: 1800 621 399
au.cybermedia.com

WINDELETE DELUXE

Pro: Finds applications from their Shortcuts, provides good graphical reports
Con: Deletes fewer files than other programs, complicated interface

WinDelete Deluxe is clever at finding and deleting preinstalled applications — even if you only point it to the app's Shortcut — and it manages and clears unneeded Internet files, Registry debris and duplicate files. But the $99.95 program's performance was otherwise middling (it left 107 more files than were there originally), and its interface (except for bar charts that map disk space) is complicated. IMSI offers free Web updates and agent programs, which monitor your work from the background.

Dataflow
Phone: (02) 9417 9700
www.imsisoft.com

Defragmenters

Every time you save a file, Windows scatters it wherever hard drive space exists. Your files are then fragmented, and you need a defragmenter to bring them together. The benefits? Files open faster after defragging, and defragging can help restore a file after a crash. But don't expect it to improve overall speed: our benchmarking showed no appreciable improvement.

As with disk scanners, we tested the defragmenters that come with Norton Utilities, Nuts & Bolts and Windows 95. To fragment our 2GB test drive, we used a batch file that copied, altered and deleted files. Next we ran two speed tests. First, we unzipped a huge fragmented file; as we timed, we defragmented the drive and unzipped the file again. Second, we clocked the loading of a large TIFF file in Picture Publisher while running Word, 1-2-3 and Paradox; then we defragged and reloaded the file. Finally, to test each program's safety measures, we unplugged the PC while the programs ran, then rebooted and checked for damage. All passed this test.

DISK DEFRAGMENTER (WINDOWS 95)

Pro: Simple, comes with Windows 95
Con: Slow run time

Disk Defragmenter isn't fancy. Instead of a colourful map, for example, it shows a simple progress bar. But it gets the job done — slowly. It took 87 minutes to defrag a 2GB drive with 342MB of free space; with only 96MB of free space, it took 122 minutes. Disk Defragmenter also left our drive 1 per cent fragmented — not a big problem, but it should have done a complete job (as the others did). In speed tests, it performed as well as the others on the zip file test and ahead of Nuts & Bolts on the TIFF load test. You can't beat its price, but you're better off spending a little to get better performance.

Microsoft Australia
Phone: (02) 9870 2200
www.microsoft.com.au

DISKTUNE (NUTS & BOLTS)

Pro: Best interface
Con: Slow

Nuts & Bolts' DiskTune looks great — even better than the Norton Utilities defragger — as it does its work. And like Norton, it does lots of fancy sorting tricks that the vendor claims improve performance (we disagree). But the attractive interface and sophisticated sorting methods don't compensate for DiskTune's comparatively poor performance. On our TIFF test, the utility performed worse than Windows' free defragger. And DiskTune took almost 37 minutes to run when the disk wasn't very full, and nearly 103 minutes when space was limited. Since you probably won't want to sit and watch the pretty colours for that long, DiskTune's good looks eventually become irrelevant.

Network Associates
Phone: (02) 9437 5866
www.nai.com

SPEED DISK (NORTON UTILITIES)

Pro: Very fast, gives best results
Con: No status bar

Symantec calls the Norton Utilities defragmenting tool Speed Disk, and with good reason. Before defragging, it took our PC almost 9 seconds to open the TIFF file; after defragging, it took under 6 seconds — 10 per cent faster than with Disk Defragmenter and 15 per cent faster than with Nuts & Bolts. The defragging process itself was speedy, too: Norton churned through a 2GB drive in 16 minutes and 25 seconds, less than half the time of its closest competitor. Like the other two defraggers, Speed Disk is easy to use (too bad it doesn't tell you how close it is to finishing the job). It also performs several putatively speed-enhancing tricks (such as sorting files by date and moving the ones used most recently up front), but in reality none will noticeably speed up your work. Still, its combination of efficiency, speed and ease make Speed Disk our top choice.

Symantec
Phone: (02) 9850 1000
www.symantec.com.au

THE EMERGENCY ROOM
Crash prevention and recovery

Nothing makes you feel as helpless as a system crash. Unlike a freeze, from which you can recover by closing the app or (at worst) rebooting, a crash damages your PC in ways that rebooting can't fix. Fortunately, most crash recovery utilities can reunite you with your data. In fact, all those we tested dealt successfully with lost or damaged clusters, cross-linked files and a corrupted FAT.

Many of these products also claim to take preventive measures. By performing regular system checkups, they can correct software conflicts and warn you about potential crashes. Because many of the programs that do diagnostics also do crash recovery, we re-reviewed them, looking specifically at how well they handled emergencies.

FIRST AID 98 DELUXE

Pro: Easy interface, clear description of problems and solutions
Con: Somewhat limited disk recovery features

First Aid 98 Deluxe has the best interface here, a key reason it's our Best Buy. The $99.95 utility's controls look and act just like a browser's. Its system checkup provides clear descriptions of problems and their solutions. Recovery tools are limited to Win 95's ScanDisk and Disk Defragmenter, but the interface makes them more usable. You also get a year of complimentary Oil Change service, which updates First Aid automatically over the Internet — handy for getting new crash recovery features. (First Aid 97 is the version on our cover CD.)

CyberMedia
Phone: 1800 621 399
au.cybermedia.com

NORTON CRASHGUARD DELUXE

Pro: Creates three powerful rescue disks, includes video clips with useful how-to tips
Con: Complexity might overwhelm novice users

Power users will marvel at Norton CrashGuard Deluxe's tools. The $79 package's three rescue disks claim to manage any crash situation, but the many options might intimidate some users. CrashGuard installs background agent programs that scout out potential freezes, viruses and full disks. The antifreeze utility inserts itself in Windows' Close Programs dialogue box and lets you restart hung programs before you lose data. Finally, the weekly error log can help you ferret out troublesome software.

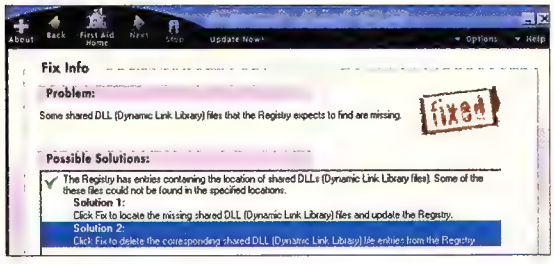
Symantec
Phone: (02) 9850 1000
www.symantec.com.au

NUTS & BOLTS

Pro: Good recovery routine and system info
Con: You must run all tools individually

Nuts & Bolts has a good crash recovery procedure with a customisable rescue disk, a wizard that explains what's going on, and an undo feature. The program is also full of other handy tools, most related to disk cleaning: TrashGuard tracks deleted files, the ShortCut Wizard finds and removes (or fixes) orphaned Shortcuts, and the Cleanup Wizard removes seldom-used files from the drive. Unfortunately, Nuts & Bolts requires you to activate each of these routines individually.

Network Associates
Phone: (02) 9437 5866
www.nai.com



First Aid 98 Deluxe identifies problems and suggests possible solutions. It's Fixed stamp means it has solved your problem

REALHELP EXTRA STRENGTH 1.0

Pro: Good documentation
Con: Poor rescue disk design

A recovery tool is only as good as its rescue disk, and that's where the $99.95 RealHelp Extra Strength 1.0 fails. When you create its rescue disk, you must specify a volume label for the floppy. If you can't remember that label during recovery, the program grinds to a halt. Still, the well-designed documentation makes it easy to understand the product's many features. A helpful service manager monitors your system in the background. And like First Aid 98 Deluxe, RealHelp allows you to update the software directly over the Internet.

Quarterdeck
Phone: 1800 659 041
www.quarterdeck.com

VT RESCUE 95

Pro: Least expensive
Con: No crash prevention tools, spotty recovery

We can't recommend VT Rescue 95. It has no crash prevention tools and it nearly failed our recovery tests. Our first attempts to create a rescue disk froze the program. (A patch fixed the problem.) The $US45 software's main screen simply invokes Windows 95's tools, such as ScanDisk and the Registry Editor. The few new tools include CleanMan, which tracks and removes unneeded files, and WizCrash, which attempts to reanimate frozen apps. In the end, VT Rescue 95 was more trouble than it was worth. ■

VT Virtual Technology
www.vtvirtual.com

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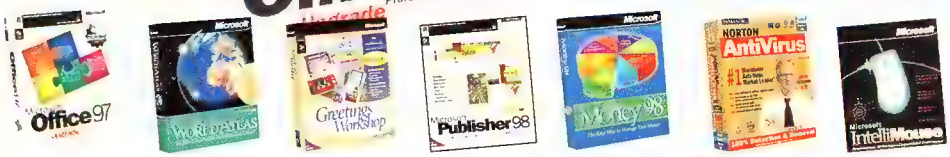

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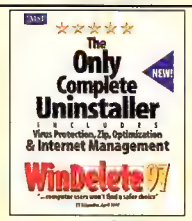

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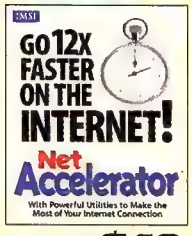

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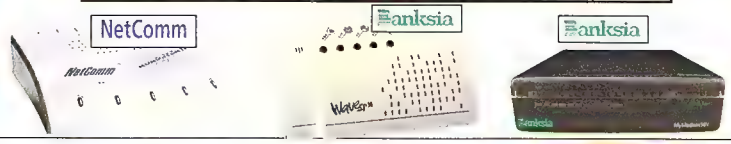

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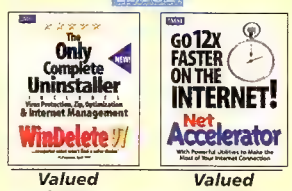

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ONLINE AND LOOKING FOR WORK

Now that the Internet has cured global warming, the slide of the Aussie dollar and high cholesterol, it's time for something really useful

By Phil Campbell

With almost a million Australians currently looking for work, and thousands of others in the market for a change of career, why can't the Internet help you find a new job? It can.

First, the bad news. If you're an unemployed taxidermist, at the moment the Internet isn't going to be much help. I know – I checked. If you're a taxi driver, though, there are plenty of options. And if you're looking for work in the information technology (IT) sector, there are Internet sites that will virtually take you by the hand and introduce you to your new boss.

Before we survey the employment services available on the Web, let me float some early observations. First, there's a broad distinction between the specialist job-search sites and the more general "classified ad-style" job markets. Specialist sites tend to be populated by agency and placement consultant ads, which have a distinct professional and IT bias. I guess it's a kind of natural selection – IT workers automatically turn to the Internet to look for career options.

Taxidermists and taxi drivers don't. Specialist sites are more likely to offer "full service" options – you can prepare and upload your resume, for example, and even apply for positions by e-mail while you're online. For most of us, though, the more general classified ad-style sites are likely to be useful. Typically, they'll offer more positions in more categories, with ads drawn directly from major daily newspapers. While you' re not "connected" to the potential employer in the same way – there are no direct e-mail options – the convenience of such a huge database of potential positions is stunning. If nothing else, you'll save hours that you'd otherwise spend scanning the columns of your daily newspaper.

As we browse through the following sites, you'll notice a convergence of features. You'll usually find a searchable online job database, and most offer automated e-mail updates. Only the professional employment sites offer features like a resume exchange service, and some add value with a range of resources and articles.

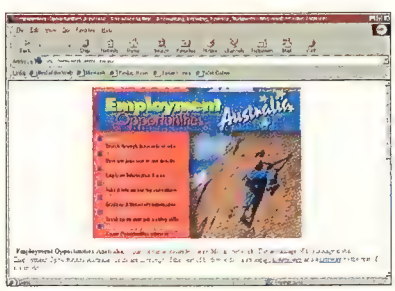
Okay, polish your shoes, grab your smile, and let's go hunting. Getting started is easy.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AUSTRALIA

Forget search engines – all you need is a half-decent guess. As usual, the serious players have cornered the most obvious domain names. Punch www.employment.com.au into your browser and you're connected to Employment Opportunities Australia, a comprehensive site which is part of the international CareerMosaic network. (You'll land on the same site if you try www.jobs.com.au).

The EOA site offers a fully searchable database of more than 1000 local positions, with offerings from a number of major corporations; if you want to look overseas, the CareerMosaic link puts you in touch with a huge collection of international opportunities. The job database is well organised, with a prominent menu of 22 categories arranged down the left of the screen. Categories range from Accounting to University, and have a strong professional bias.

The Media and Advertising category had only five positions on offer when I looked, while a click on IT and Computers generated a list that scrolled on forever. If you're an Oracle Consultant or MS Exchange Migrator, look no further.



Trade adverts are scarce, with vacancies for a Meat Industry Supervisor and a Timber Mill Manager among the 16 positions on offer. The Employment Opportunities Australia site offers a useful e-mail service called EOA Direct – simply leave your details and you'll be notified by e-mail when jobs are available that match your search criteria.

BYRON EMPLOYMENT

Enter the keywords "employment" and "Australia" in the Infoseek search engine, and you'll turn up a list of 182 sites. Byron Employment gets top billing with its site, http://employment.byron.com.au/comms.htm

According to site manager David Bartnik, the agency-based service is designed to be simple and efficient.

"Our research shows that people want to get to job information quickly, without having to wade through a whole lot of slow-loading graphics," says Bartnik. "In fact, we emphasise our e-mail service rather than the Web site."

Look at the site and you'll see what they mean. It's lean, functional and straight down to business, with a range of 18 job categories searchable by location and keyword. While there was a position available for a Sandwich Artist, it's another site that's dominated by jobs in the IT sector. Joining the site's Jobmail list is simple: enter your

details, then sit back and wait for filtered job ads to land in your in-box. Don't expect immediate results. So far, my quest for a highly-paid media position [*What's wrong with the one you've got? — Ed.*] returns the daily news that "0 new positions match your search criteria". The site is sweetened by a comprehensive list of links to other employment sites and consultancies — a useful resource.

THE AUSTRALIAN RESUME SERVER

Taking a slightly different tack, the Australian Resume Server site (www.herenow.com.au) brings together job seekers and employers by displaying your resume, rather than the employer's vacancy ads. The site claims there are currently over 1600 keyword-searchable resumes on the system. Registering is easy: if you've already created a resume homepage with your own Internet service provider — the best option if you want to make an impression — then it's

simply a matter of entering your site address, along with searchable keywords and brief details of your skills. If you don't already have an online resume, you can choose to upload a text file for storage on the server. Again, there's a strong IT bias, particularly evident in the drop-down list of job-type keywords. If you're a plumber, don't bother.

It's hard to assess the Australian Resume Server from a job hunter's point of view. Apparently, though, employers love it — the site is trawled regularly by some of Australia's biggest corporate agencies and employers. My advice? If you're serious, sign up — there's nothing to lose.

JOBNET

If you've stuck with it this far, you'll realise that hunting for a job on the Internet works well if you're looking for a Net-style job. According to one industry source, the site with the strongest foothold in the IT employment sector is JobNet (www.jobnet.com.au). In fact, the placement rate of the site is so high that some employers use it as their sole means of recruitment advertising.

With a searchable database of over 9300 positions, links to 165 recruitment agencies, the choice of filtered or comprehensive daily e-mail lists, and a slick homepage, this is the place to do serious business if you're in the business of computers and technology.

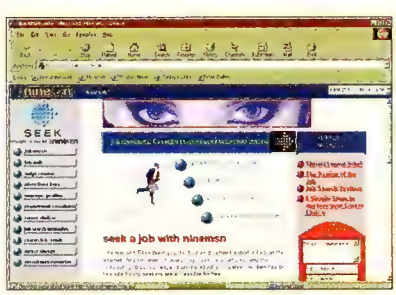
SEEK

Combining the resources of Seek Communications and ninemsn, the new jobs.ninemsn.com.au site gives users access to a database of almost 2000 job vacancies from over 150 advertisers. If you're looking for professional presentation and lots of added extras, it's the pick of the bunch.

When you've found a position you're interested in, you can lodge an application online; as usual, there's a free e-mail update service. Articles at the site offer tips on resumes and interview techniques, as well as advice on workplace trends, job search strategies and mid-career changes. The site also invites you to lodge your resume online — it's easy to maintain and update, and can be added to your online job applications, or made available to Seek's advertisers.

Significantly, advertisers who use the service are delighted with the results. According to Dean Lloyd, from recruitment agency Nicolai Absolute Consulting, the Seek service is fast and cost-effective.

"We'd normally advertise in the *Age* on a Wednesday or a Saturday. But if we need someone in a hurry on a



Friday night, we're on hold till the next Wednesday. With Seek, we can find high-calibre candidates by Monday. Seek also seems to screen out the lower end of the market. Seek users show initiative."

While Lloyd agrees that the service works best for computing and engineering vacancies, he sees a move towards a more general audience. A recent ad for a Customer Service officer placed by an insurance company generated 12 e-mail applications and one of the applicants was hired.

"That compares with 20 or so responses for jobs in the IT sector," says Lloyd, "and that's more than we'd get from a typical newspaper ad. Best of all, the responses are quick, usually within 24 hours."

Okay, so dedicated employment service sites may be more effective than old style newspaper ads for IT sector employment. But traditional classified ads are still the recruiting ground for most other jobs — and the good news is that almost all the Positions Vacant ads in Australia's daily newspapers are mirrored on the Internet.

The following sites may not offer the immediacy of instant e-mail contact with potential employers, but they're an incredibly convenient way to scan the job market.

FAIRFAX@MARKET

The Fairfax@market site (www.market.fairfax.com.au) is smooth and attractive, with a simple but powerful search engine. On the first day I checked there were 9764 jobs on offer; the next day, 10,214. That's the total of all the ads in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Australian Financial Review*, *The Sunday Age*, *The Sun Herald*, *Homes Pictorial*, *The Newcastle Herald*, *The Illawarra Mercury* and Fairfax Community Newspapers.

Value-added features on the site, like a cost-of-living calculator and a PAYE tax calculator, can only be accessed when you register. They're simple little Java tricklets that add more fun than practical value, but they're worth a try. The site includes GIF images of display advertisements (a nice touch, with a

considerate low-resolution preview feature) and there are easy links to current news items from the Herald Employment section. The Fairfax Ad Alert system offers a filtered daily or weekly e-mail service, which the site claims is free of charge for an initial trial period. We'll see. For a quick feel of the job mix on offer through the Fairfax site, there were 28 vacancies for butchers, 47 for taxi drivers, and 77 for computer programmers. Something for everyone.

NEWS LIMITED

The News Limited stable includes *The Australian*, *The Daily Telegraph* and dozens of other titles. In a number eerily similar to Fairfax, when I first

checked the NewsClassifieds site (www.newsclassifieds.com.au) there were 9674 positions on offer — just 90 short of Fairfax — but making the "more ads, more choice" tag line on the site banner a little misleading.

My straw poll dug up 31 vacancies for butchers, 163 for programmers and 85 positions for taxi drivers.

Taxidermists? Sorry. But again, it's a top quality site, well maintained, with an effective daily e-mail update service dubbed "Ineeda".

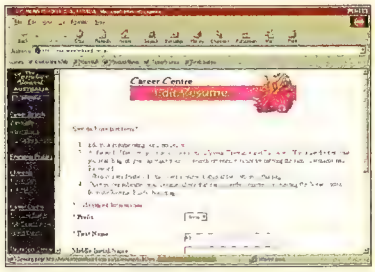
CHECKOUT CLASSIFIEDS

As a smaller site which brings together a bunch of regional newspapers from Northern NSW and southern Queensland, the Checkout Classifieds site (www.checkoutclassifieds.com.au) is surprisingly effective, and has a couple of features competing Web masters may like to look at. Bearing in mind that we're only dealing with an area between Coffs Harbour and Bundaberg, it's no surprise there are fewer jobs on offer — only 522 in the General category, and a scattering in others. But in the first neat feature, each category in the drop-down search list is labelled with the number of entries on offer, so you won't waste your time searching for positions that aren't there. Also convenient is the site's notepad page — click on ads that catch your eye as you browse, then select *See Your List* for an easy-to-print page of contact details. As usual, there's an e-mail list — the AdVisor — for free daily updates.

Before you go offline, it's worth taking a quick look at some of the more popular employment-oriented newsgroups. While they're not as spectacular as their Web equivalents in the eye-candy department, newsgroups like aus.ads.jobs and misc.jobs.resumes offer another opportunity to match job vacancies with your skills. Most of the newsgroups are not moderated, so there's an almost equal mix of serious post-doctoral research positions and ads that offer to help you "earn $2000 a week at home". There's also little chance of finding out if leaving a resume in misc.jobs.resumes has ever found a job for anyone, anywhere.

My advice? If you're serious about job hunting, check out all the sites you can find, sign up for every e-mail update service, and leave your resume on as many servers as possible. Why not? Because the best thing is all the services we've looked at are absolutely free — even if you're a taxidermist, you'll strike it lucky one day. ■

Preparing your online resume



Building your online resume isn't as hard as it sounds. For starters, Monsterboard's CareerCentre Resume Builder (www.monsterboard.com.au) offers a simple form-based approach that will have a basic CV up and running in around 10 minutes. Just fill in the appropriate blanks with details of your name, address, contact details and job history. You're allowed up to 28 lines for a description of your skills. The finished resume file is then stored on the site, where it can be searched and viewed by prospective employers.

The Australian Resume Server offers three equally simple options. First, you can upload your own resume in a standard text file — naturally that means there's no scope for creating a sharp-looking layout, but at least they'll get the facts. Alternatively, if you've already created a resume at another site, you can simply enter the URL, along with keyword details for interested headhunters. Finally, for an annual fee of $60, you can have your text-based resume massaged into a "gold standard" resume page by the HTML team at the Australian Resume Server site. The fee includes layout and design, HTML coding, inclusion of graphics and sound, and addition of META tags, so that your presentation is located and indexed by the major search engines. Free updates are available as required. You'll have your own site address in the format *www.herenow.com.au/resume/johnsmith.html*

If you want the satisfaction of going completely "do-it-yourself", all you need to create a classy Web resume is a current-generation wordprocessor (Word 95 and above, WordPerfect 7, etc) with the ability to save files in browser-compatible HTML format, and perhaps a scanner to grab some suitable pics. If you're looking for a creative-sector job, the way you dress up your Web page is just as important as the details it contains, so make it tasteful, and include some samples of your work. If you already have an Internet account, there's usually space set aside for your own Web page, so contact your service provider to find out how to upload your HTML file to the server. From there, it's simply a matter of registering your new site on the Australian Resume Server, or leaving a message with a link to your site in the misc.jobs.resumes newsgroup.

Online News

DODGY DOMAIN DEALINGS?

The Department of Fair Trading is investigating the business practices of the Australia & New Zealand Domain Name Registry following calls from concerned consumers.

The Australia & New Zealand Domain Name Registry is under investigation for allegedly contravening the consumer protection legislation under the Trade Practices Act 1974. The company allegedly sent thousands of faxes to Australian businesses urging them to buy .au.com domain names, warning "you will not be able to use your own company or product name in the future unless you buy it back".

The Australia & New Zealand Domain Name Registry's reseller relationship with the NetRegistry has been suspended, with Larry Bloch, NetRegistry's CEO, stating: "If the Australia & New Zealand Domain Name Registry is found to be contravening the Trade Practices Act, we will not renew their reseller status."

"Almost 2000 au.com domain names have been sold without complaint. We do not need to oversell this product and neither do our VARs," Bloch said.

OZEMAIL SETTLES APRA COURT ACTION

OzEmail has settled a Federal Court case brought against it by the Australian Performing Rights Association (APRA), which alleged infringement of copyright by offering a service including the transmission of music over the Internet.

The legal proceedings began in March last year and ended in June with an undisclosed payment to APRA by OzEmail. Under the agreement OzEmail makes no admission of liability in relation to the Federal Court action, and APRA will not institute further proceedings against OzEmail.

WESTPAC LAUNCHES ONLINE BANKING

Westpac customers can now do their banking via the Internet, performing transactions such as the transfer of funds, account balance enquiries and bill payments at the bank's Web site (www.westpac.com.au).

A 128-bit encryption is offered from the browser, requiring no additional software. Customers who wish to use this new service will need to register first on 1300 655 505. Westpac expects around 2000 customers to register each month for the new online services.

PAY TELSTRA BILLS ONLINE

Telstra telephone and mobile phone customers can now pay their bills securely online using Telstra's SureLink Bill.Pay service (www.billpay.surelink.com.au).

Telstra hopes the Bill.Pay site will become a "one-stop bill-paying shop" – "We aim to become the one site where people can pay all of their bills," said a Telstra spokesman.

Eventually bills from other organisations will be added to the service and users will only have to register once so they won't have to enter their details each time they pay a bill.

NETSCAPE COMMUNICATOR 4.5 BETA

Netscape Communications has announced the next version of its Communicator client will be available in beta from the Netscape Netcenter Web site from July.

Netscape Communicator 4.5 will include "major product enhancements" such as "Smart Browsing", "Roaming Access support" for mobile users, and "high-performance Internet messaging through open standards such as LDAP and IMAP".

"Smart Browsing" will include three core capabilities: "Internet Keywords" enabling users to type simple keywords instead of specific URLs; "NetWatch", which provides Internet content screening; and "What's Related", which dynamically generates a list of links that relate to the site the user is currently visiting.

NEW SITES: HP, ALTAVISTA, YAHOO!

Hewlett-Packard (HP) has partnered with Harris Technology to allow its Web visitors to easily purchase HP products online. Sydney-based Harris Technology is now hosting an

exclusively HP online store accessible via HP's Web site (www.hp.com.au).

Digital's AltaVista is now hosting the "Finance Zone" where Webbies can find free stock quotes from the New York Stock Exchange, news, company information and pay-per-view research reports. AltaVista can be found at www.altavista.digital.com.

The Visa Shopping Guide has been launched by Yahoo! Australia & NZ, at shopguide.yahoo.com.au. The guide boasts 22 product and service categories and a listing of 175 online merchants who will deliver anywhere in Australia and New Zealand.

INFOSEEK JOINS FREE WEB SPACE GAME

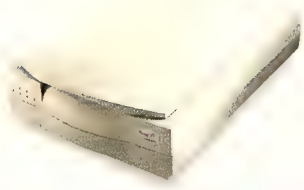
Infoseek has bolstered its online community presence by adding free personal home page services, giving users 7MB of disk space and the tools needed to build fully integrated multimedia Web sites.

"Home Page Center" services include access to WebArchitect HTML editing software and Teleporter software, which enables members to transfer files to the server, an Infoseek spokesman said. The centre supports sites with animation and audio and video applications. ■

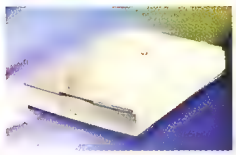
FOR DETAIL THAT LEAPS OFF THE PAGE

The ViewStation® AT12 Flatbed Scanner brings professional quality imaging straight to your desktop. With features like 600 x 1200 dpi resolution and 36-bit color ability, production of high quality graphics rich in color and detail are a piece of cake for the AT12. The scanner comes bundled with a comprehensive software package which includes Adobe® PhotoDeluxe™ and MACROMEDIA® xRes™ for hassle-free image editing, MediaHouse®, for saving and managing your multimedia files and Wordlinx for Optical Character Recognition(OCR). The AT12, with its accompanying software package, provides you with all the tools you need to create sparkling text and graphics which leap off the page.

ViewStation® AT12



- 36-bit true color
- Optical resolution 600 X 1200 dpi
- Most affordable solution for advance application
- Long-life cold cathode fluorescent lamp
- A4 size, single-pass color flatbed scanner
- Fully support TWAIN and SCSI-II standards
- Apply to both Macintosh and PC systems
- Interactive demonstrating program on multimedia CD



ViewStation® AS6E

ViewStation® AS6E is a CIS flatbed scanner with EPP for easy installation

ARTEC

Distributor

Global Business Technology Int'l Pty Ltd.
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Fax: 02-9644 3932

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Fax: 03-9562 8989

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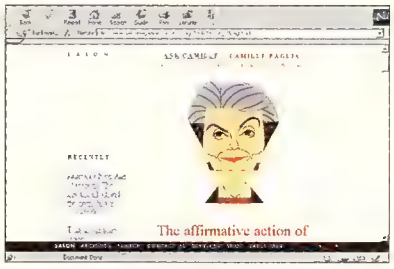
Specifications and features are subject to change without notice

Web site reviews

Edited by Molly Furzer
If you would like to make a suggestion for a review, send an e-mail to molly_furzer@idg.com.au

E-ZINES
Salon Magazine
www.salonmagazine.com



Salon Magazine describes itself as "an original content Internet magazine covering books, arts and ideas". "Content" is the key word here: this site is light on rotating icons, scrolling banners and other "exciting" special effects. All you get is writing — and it's very good writing too.

Salon is created in San Francisco, and many of its articles clearly target a US audience. But this doesn't mean that the magazine is inaccessible to Australians. The *Newsreal* section, for example, (though recently bogged down by the Clinton/Starr saga), generally covers a wide range of international stories. And *Entertainment* reviews the latest crop of movies, television shows and music CDs, many of which will probably appear in Australia in the near future.

Every day, each section carries a new story. Read *21st* for coverage of a burning (or at least smouldering) technology issue; browse the *Wanderlust* travel segment for stories from globe-trotting heavyweights such as Salman Rushdie and Jan Morris; or dip into *Table Talk* — a forum for readers to speak out on the day's hot topic.

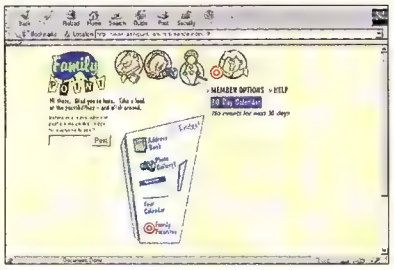
The contributions of Salon's regular columnists are perfect lunchbreak fare. Camille Paglia snipes at society's tallest poppies in *Ask Camille* — "online advice for the culturally disgruntled"; Garrison Keillor discusses what it means to be a writer in *Lovers and Writers*; and Courtney Weaver opens a window on her prurient imagination in *Unzipped*, where the "truth" about circumcision, small men and the new wonder drug Viagra are discussed in far more than necessary detail. Great stuff!

- Neville Clarkson

KEEPING IN TOUCH
FamilyPoint
www.familypoint.com
If you find keeping in contact with family members all over the country, and the world for that matter, difficult, FamilyPoint may be what you're looking for.

A free service, FamilyPoint enables Web-surfing relatives to keep in touch via the FamilyPoint Web site. Simply become a member and ask all your rellies to join up. By joining, you can create a Web space for viewing and editing by your immediate and extended family. There's no html involved — it's all forms — and you can see the results straight away.

Photos can be uploaded into the "Photo Gallery" section, an address book keeps everyone's contact details up to date and you can add URL links to the "Family Favorites" section. Take a walk on over to the "Fridge"



where you can post notes or mark a special date in the 30-month calendar.

The beauty of it? It's free and there's minimal advertising. Oh, you also don't have to dial those extra digits for overseas calls (or pay the huge telephone bill) — and forget those excruciating lunchtime queues in the Post Office too.

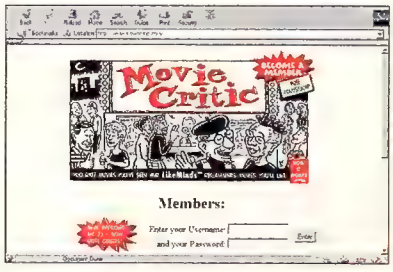
- Molly Furzer

FILM
Urban Cinefile
www.urbancinefile.com.au
Urban Cinefile is a professional e-zine dedicated to the Australian film industry that is published solely on the Internet by film journalists. The content of the site is a mix of movie news, reviews and film statistics.

"Bums On Seats" provides Australian box office information in both dollar terms and tickets sold. One of the site's strongest points is its hourly and daily updates (during Cannes 98, reports and reviews were posted within hours of the screenings). It is distinctly Australian, highly relevant and essential for people requiring the latest film information. The only down side is that it is a graphically intense site that may drive you nuts if you have a slow connection.

- Scott Mendham

Movie Critic
www.moviecritic.com
It's a rainy day and you head to the video store or cinema: what do you



pick? Will you like it or waste your money? You have two options — listen to a friend's advice or follow a trusted reviewer's opinion — but these techniques have limited success.

Instead, try Movie Critic, the ultimate in personalised movie selections. After you score about twenty films, the site builds a profile of your personal tastes and its database will then suggest other films that you may want to see or avoid (including video and theatrical releases). If a friend has also ranked films, you can select the "Movies For Two" option and it will make recommendations of films that you can see together.

If you think that you have a strange taste in films, the site can match your rankings against the average score recorded by all Movie Critic respondents. A perfect site for a rainy Sunday.

- Scott Mendham

ONLINE SHOPPING
MLI Direct

www.mli.com.au

One of the big plusses electronic commerce has brought to the world of shopping is lower overhead costs for retailers, and therefore, potentially more competitive pricing of goods for sale.

MLI Direct has built its computer reselling business around this fact — its only shopfront is on the Web and it offers customers a wide range of software and hardware goods with a marginal mark-up from wholesale costs.

Secure online credit card transactions are provided for at the site and orders can also be placed via phone, fax and mail. Orders are shipped free in the metro area of Sydney and software purchases of more than $50 are shipped free nationwide.

- Molly Furzer

Gowings Goes Global

www.gowings.com.au

Great news everyone — you no longer have to wait for the weekend to rush out and buy an impressive pair of tracksuit pants at an affordable price. Sydney's Gowings, probably the world's only clothing store to have its own barber, is now selling online.

What's more, new visitors to the site only have to click on "catalogue" to be in the running to win a Drizabone riding coat.

Browsing the store's various departments using the map on the Web site is as good as wandering through the shop itself — without being pestered by "helpful" sales assistants (oh, I forgot — it's the store where "no one is asked to buy").

You even get your own shopping basket to fill with Gowings goodies as you go along. All items from clothing to books, games and gifts are pictured onscreen so you can check out the different colours and styles. Better be careful when you go into the fitting room though — that assistant looks a bit dodgy.

- Merryn Dickinson

POLITICS
Pauline Hanson Sound Bytes

http://nottheworldnews.home.ml.org

The Queensland state election: "please explain". Pauline Hanson's voice: "I don't like it". See how much fun you can have with Pauline Hanson sound bytes? Radio funnymen MartinMolloy do it all the time with their "please explain" segment — now you can too. Not The World News has collected and posted on its Web site, some of the more famous Hanson sound bytes including those from the spooky "Death tape": "If you are seeing this I have been murdered", "Do not let my passing distract you", "I was just the messenger".

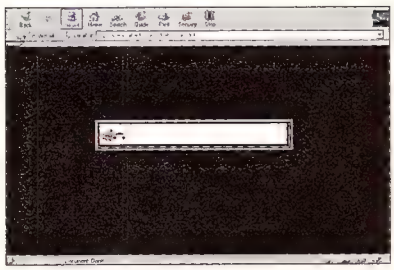
An artist's impression of the fish-and-chip shop lady turned politician, Pauline Hanson, from The Unofficial Pauline Hanson Web Site (www.zip.com.au/~rocket/hanson.htm)

If you're interested in the politics of this matter, Hanson and her One Nation party have a Web site (www.gwb.com.au/onenation/), which contains her maiden speech. And there are plenty of anti-Hanson sites like the "OurNation Australia" site (www.protest.org), which asks for people to speak up against Hanson and her "simplistic" and "xenophobic" ideologies — you can sign a petition online. OurNation is endorsed by political figures such as Kim Beazley, Jeff Kennett, Cheryl Kernot and Bob Carr.

- Molly Furzer

WEIRD
Stick Figure Death Theatre

www.calvert.com/sfdt/sfdt.html

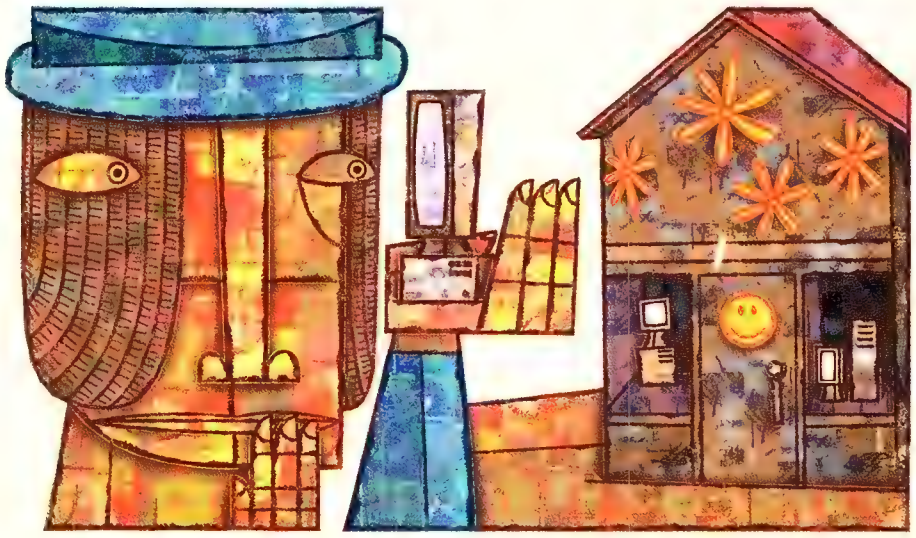


If you're part of some weird sect that gets its jollies out of morbid stick figure animations, then BINGO! This Web site will give you that cheap, three-second thrill you're looking for.

A grand total of four animations are on display with the exciting titles — "The Car", "The Gun", "The Head" and "The Axe". You can watch a stick figure being hit by a car, shot dead, have its head explode or get chopped off with an axe (the exploding head isn't very convincing — I've never seen a rectangular head before).

If you decide to venture to this site my advice is don't blink — or you'll miss it. ■

- Merryn Dickinson



THE BEST HOME PCs

By Sue Bushell

When it comes to a PC for the home, most buyers demand a lot from their machine. Not only are they looking for power and speed, 3D graphics, and a speedy modem, they want software to meet every need of every family member plus options to grow.

Indeed if wishes were horses and beggars went riding, every home PC user would order the most powerful PC on offer, complete with masses of RAM and disk space, a state-of-the-art flat-panel LCD monitor and theatre-quality speakers. Since most beggars remain firmly on foot, SOHO users have learnt the art of compromise, and vendors are expert at offering the best compromise money can buy, with the sweetener of upgrade options to appease the undecided.

Some vendors, like Hewlett-Packard and IBM, have worked hard to make their home PC offerings distinct from their business machines, with suites of software and Windows overlays designed to please all the family. Others are content to concentrate on providing machines that can meet the needs of either the business or private user.

When we asked top vendors to tell us about their best home PC offerings, they all chose machines with plenty of functionality for most home and business uses, including Web surfing, games, educational multimedia programs and productivity apps. Their offerings ranged from the fairly modest Micron Millennia MME PCI Pentium 233, which comes pre-configured to access the Internet, to heavyweights from Dell and Gateway with choices of 350 or 400MHz Pentium II processor.

Some of the PCs on offer are clearly differentiated from the business PCs from the same vendor, with monitors and keyboards tailored to the family or hobbyist, and most provide some form of multimedia. Some even come with technologies to let you send signals to your TV or VCR.

But home users are no longer being offered huge numbers of software titles to tempt them to buy. Not so long ago, truly aggressive SOHO PC makers bundled as many as 50 titles with their home PCs, from games to tax packages and many of them of limited value. Now the emphasis is on quality over quantity. In virtually every case you'll get integrated software (word processor, spreadsheet, database), an encyclopedia, and games. You may also get software for digitising photographs and you'll certainly get Internet software with most systems.

In terms of power, home PCs have virtually all the CPU and hard disk options of business models. Most home users prefer 17in monitors, but these don't always come as standard, and most vendors are still offering x2 modem technology, although many say they will revise this as customer demand changes and V.90 becomes the norm.

There's also a growing emphasis on features aimed at making PCs easy and pleasurable to use, including blinking message-waiting lights, programmable keys, prominent control knobs and mute buttons and one-touch Internet access.

Many are being offered with a high-capacity Iomega Zip drive as standard or an option, for convenient data backup. With so much emphasis on multimedia, many manufacturers are now offering DVD for high-capacity storage for large multimedia and reference applications.

Even at the low end of the range these systems will suit most home users' basic requirements, but if your budget will run to the high end, you may also get second-generation DVD-ROM drives, theatre-quality speakers, huge monitors, MPEG-2 hardware and ultrafast 3D video boards.

Note that prices are constantly being adjusted, so it's worth making a phone call or a visit to the vendor's Web page to check the latest pricing.

ILLUSTRATION: RICHARD DOWNS

DYTEC

At $2666, Dytec's Micron Millennia MME PCI Pentium 233 is excellent value. The unit comes with Universal Serial Bus Interface (USB) for easy peripheral reconfiguration, and an optional Iomega Zip drive for portable backup and storage, but no monitor — you'll have to buy that separately. There are also 166MHz and 200MHz versions available.

As a first-tier Internet service provider, Dytec frequently ships its PCs with free Internet access, so newbies can access the Net from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local call and a double click of the Internet Explorer icon on the Millennia's desktop.

There's a 4MB Diamond Virge Video Adaptor, 24x EIDE CD-ROM and powered SB16/Speakers. You get a 56Kbps internal telephony modem.

The machine comes complete with Microsoft Windows 95 and Microsoft Plus pre-loaded on CD-ROM, plus Microsoft Works 95.

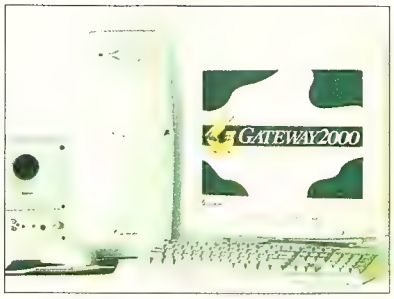
For an extra $60 you can upgrade from the standard 3.2GB hard drive to a 4.0GB unit.

There's also a very competitive three-year on-site warranty, underwritten by an Aussie insurance company, and an additional two-year parts only warranty on microprocessor and main memory.

Dytec
Phone: 1800 062 206
www.dytec.com.au/dytec.htm

GATEWAY

With a focus on those demanding multimedia applications and SOHOs with a giant-sized need for storage, Gateway's G-Series is now available with a choice of either Pentium II 350 or 400 MHz processors based on the BX chipset.



Performance gets a boost from a high-speed 100MHz front side bus that the company says is designed to significantly increase data transfer speed between main memory and processor. Gateway says this approach maximises the benefits of the new high-speed processors.

No slouch when it comes to performance, these babies come with 64MB SDRAM, 4MB nVidia ADTP graphics accelerator and x2 data/voice/fax modem with speakerphone.

Buy the 350MHz model and you'll get a 17in colour monitor and 6.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive as standard, or fork out an extra thousand dollars or so for the 400MHz processor, 19in colour monitor, Iomega internal IDE Zip drive and 8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive.

For multimedia, both units come standard with DVD-ROM drive, Boston Accoustic media theatre speakers and Ensoniq wavetable audio.

Both units also come standard with Windows 95/98, Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition, and Telstra Big Pond Internet Kit including 50 hours free Internet access. The three-year warranty includes a discretionary first year on-site service.

And if you're financially pressed but need a PC soonest, you can take advantage of the six months, interest free finance package Gateway is offering on any new PC from its range, available via AGC.

At the time of going to print, the G6-350 was priced at $4499 and the G6-400XL at $5799, but Gateway's pricing is continually adjusted, so check for changes at its Web site

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Gateway
Phone: 1800 500 337
www.gw2k.com.au.

DELL

Choice is king when it comes to buying the Dell Dimension XPS R400, which features Intel Pentium II 400MHz processor, 512KB single bank Pipeline Burst Cache and 64MB 100MHz SDRAM in every configuration. Not only are there three standard configurations to choose from, there's also a list of upgrade options for each system, making it fairly easy to order a PC to suit your exact requirements.

Storage shouldn't be a problem for those who need it, with the high-end configuration providing a 8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive, upgradeable to a massive 14GB, plus a DVD-ROM drive and an internal Iomega Zip drive for quick backups.

The R400 also includes the 4MB STB nVidia Plus graphics card or Diamond Permedia 2 8MB 3D AGP Video Card, depending on configuration. There's either a 19in colour monitor or a 15in or

14in Trinitron monitor, also depending on your selected configuration. And in two configurations you get the latest Turtle Beach Montego A3D64 Voice PCI sound card, while in the third there's integrated Crystal Wavetable Sound. A new Disc Performance monitor is credited with improving system performance by up to 10 per cent, and the Accelerated Graphics Port dramatically ups graphics performance.

Bundled software includes Microsoft Office Small Business Edition plus McAfee AntiVirus and audio tools, and each model comes with the Microsoft IntelliMouse.

A 56Kbps US Robotics x@ WinModem occupies the lone ISA slot in the high-end configuration. The useful setup guides and manuals should put novices at ease. Dell provides 24-hour toll-free tech support and a three-year parts warranty.

In July prices for the Dell Dimension R systems started from $3159.

Dell
Phone: 1800 808 312
www.dell.com/ap/au

COMPAQ

Complete with DVD2-ROM Drive, 64MB SynchDRAM and 6.0GB hard drive, Compaq's latest offering, the Presario 5130, has a 350MHz Pentium II processor with MMX technology as standard and is upgradeable to 400MHz.

You'll pay $5199 with a 17in multimedia monitor, $4600 with 15in colour monitor or $4499 with 14in colour monitor.

If graphics and multimedia are your bag the Presario has a fair bit to offer: there's 2X AGP Graphics with 64-bit hardware accelerated 3D; 4MB SynchGraphics video memory, upgradeable to 8MB; and 100MHz SGRAM plus ATI 3D Rage Pro LT.

The Internet keyboard provides easy access Internet, multimedia, Instant On and favourite applications launch buttons.

And the system comes with a comprehensive software offering, including Internet Explorer 4.0, Compaq Internet Set-up, Compaq Selective Quick Restore, Microsoft Works 4.0a, Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 98, McAfee AntiVirus, Videolink Mail, ColorDesk and Compaq Video Phone. There's also Moto Racer (MMX) and Microsoft Soccer for the gamers.

Compaq offers a one-year warranty on parts and labour and one-year on-site coverage. System documentation is thorough.

Compaq
Phone: (02) 9911 1999
www.compaq.com.au

IBM

Stylishly sleek in black, IBM's Aptiva L Series has a heavy focus on family computing. There's concert-quality sound from the custom-designed Bose audio system and Arcade 3D graphics for enhanced multimedia. But the home business user is not forgotten. All L Series computers feature RingCentral, Aptiva's communication centre cum phone, fax and answering machine, and the Aptiva Internet suite.

The Aptiva L is built on a 266MHz Pentium II with MMX, and comes with 32MB memory, up to 4MB SGRAM (on selected models), an Advanced Graphics Port for richer multimedia, 6GB hard disk and 32x CD-ROM.

You get the Aptiva Photo Director from IBM and Kodak, and the Kodak Picture Network so you can view your favourite pictures online.

The unique customisable EZ Buttons keyboard lets you play phone messages, enjoy one touch Internet access, play music CDs or open and switch between applications with the press of a programmable button.

You also get the IBM ScrollPoint Mouse, which supports easy 360 degree scrolling through Web pages, spreadsheets and long documents.

Software includes Aptiva Photo Director (on enhanced L series), IBM ViaVoice Speech Recognition Software (on enhanced L series) and Lotus SmartSuite and Quicken V6. For the family there's also MechWarrior II and Helicops (MMX) on some models.

IBM's estimated street price for this machine is $3299.

There's a one-year parts and labour on-site warranty and 30-days free Helpware service.

IBM
Phone: 13 2426
www.ibm.com.au/

HEWLETT-PACKARD

Hewlett-Packard's Pavilion multimedia home PCs have always been strongly focused on family computing, and the latest models are no difference. Both the HP Pavilion 8200 and 3200 series multimedia home PCs provide an Accelerated Graphics Port for enhanced

high-performance graphics and full-motion video that transforms data up to five times faster than typical PCI graphics solutions.

The top of the 8200 Series range is based on the Intel 333MHz Pentium II, and is priced at around $2799 for the base model, while the HP Pavilion 3200 Series is based on the 200MHz Pentium MMX and is priced around $2199.

There's one-touch Internet access via the multimedia keyboard, and HP's usual extensive portfolio of imaging software so users can use, manipulate and store photos and other images on the PC.

Add Polk Audio stereo speakers for audiophile-quality sound, TV-out capabilities so you can display DVD, World Wide Web and multimedia content on your TV screen, and one-touch display tuning to optimise viewing settings for imaging, gaming and productivity applications. These are PCs to please children and enthusiasts alike. The PCs include an enhanced colour-matching system from HP Labs to ensure the colours shown on screen print out exactly the same way – at least if you also buy a HP colour printer.

There's a one-year limited hardware warranty, and an online support centre where users can find answers to questions and resolve problems on their own. But if the hype can be believed, not much should go wrong with these babies. HP says every new machine design goes through a 1000-point Quality Inspection to ensure each unit meets HP's rigorous standards for quality, ease of use and compatibility with other HP products. ■

Hewlett-Packard
Phone: 13 1347
www.hp.com

---

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Paint Shop Pro 5

New Features

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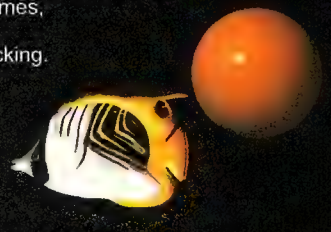

Multi-level undo
Change your mind at any time with Paint Shop Pro's multi-level undo.There is even an undo history log.

Picture Tubes
The cool new Picture Tube feature gives you a host of stunning graphics like these at your fingertips, that can be added to any image.

Freeform Deformations
Deform your graphic on the run with the new Free form tool.

Retouch Brushes
Retouch brushes now include dodge, burn, saturation, hue, lightness, and HSL to target modes.

Enhanced Browser
The enhanced browser makes it even easier to find your files.

CMYK separations
Printing of color separations is now available. Perfect for graphic artists and pre press processing.

Pressure Sensitive Tablets
Paint Shop Pro 5 now includes pressure sensitivity for graphics tablets

Brush Palette
Additional brush settings along with an easy to use brush palette with preview window.

Adjustable Cropping
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Additional selection tools
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Free with Paint Shop Pro 5

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SOHO Solutions

MORE FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

Konica has debuted a new multifunction copier, printer and fax machine that has been developed for use by small workgroups, individuals and satellite offices.

The new model, the Konica 7410, sports a swag of functions in each of the three modes.

In photocopying mode, the Konica 7410 copies at a rate of 12ppm via a 30-page automatic document feeder; will copy on both A4 or legal size paper; and boasts a 70 to 99 per cent reduction copy mode.

In printing mode, the 7410 has the ability to print 12ppm at 600dpi; four optional interfaces; and dual access for simultaneous printing or faxing while sending or receiving faxes.

Finally in fax mode, the Konica 7410 communicates in normal, fine or super fine resolutions through a 14.4Kbps modem. It features a variety of dialling capabilities that include 20 one-touch entries, 80 alpha direct dial, and group and program dialling.

Pricing for the Konica 7410 starts at $3500.

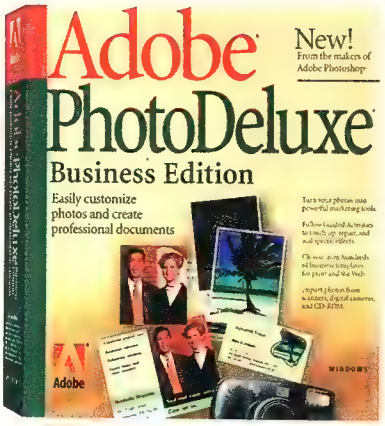
Konica's new machine that does it all: copies, prints and faxes and designed specifically for small workgroups and individuals

---

Konica Australia
Phone: (02) 9878 5333
www.konica.com.au

MAKE YOUR IMAGES SHINE

Adobe has released a new version of its popular PhotoDeluxe utility, developed specifically for small businesses. PhotoDeluxe Business Edition is designed to aid the creation of great quality images for both print and Web publishing.



Desktop publishing simplified for business — Adobe's PhotoDeluxe Business Edition provides templates for a range of business documents including stationery

According to Adobe, PhotoDeluxe Business Edition enables users to produce business cards, flyers and letterheads for an assortment of business projects with a minimum of fuss.

PhotoDeluxe Business Edition boasts hundreds of photo projects, templates, photos, clip art and special effects for the creation of business-related stationery. The program also features Adobe Connectables, which enables users to access plug-ins and templates from both Adobe and third-party software vendors via the Internet.

Adobe PhotoDeluxe Business Edition is available now at an estimated retail price of $199.

Adobe
Phone: 1800 065 628
www.adobe.com

SYBIZ: LOOKING AFTER YOUR BUSINESS

If you have a touch of Seinfeld's George Costanza in you and are into the import business, Sybiz has introduced a new application that could make your business life a touch easier.

Called Import Costing, this is a new utility that enables users to re-cost goods that have been imported to incorporate shipping costs.

Import Costing enables users to calculate costing based on cubic weight or volume, defines charges and automatically updates cost and selling prices as needed. The application tracks lists of purchase orders that have outstanding items, selected from a variety of purchase orders and tracked as a single shipment.

Sybiz says Import Costing may be seamlessly integrated into Sybiz Vision ordering systems to streamline operation through automatic cost updates and providing selling prices when required.

"Many importers are calculating charges in a spreadsheet and manually entering these into their accounting system, which takes time and effort. Import Costing automates and simplifies the process of accounting for landed goods, adjusting selling pricing and updating the accounting system as required," said Mark Young, Sybiz's marketing director.

Sounds great, although we can't help but think that with the downturn in the Aussie dollar last quarter, maybe Sybiz should have released Export Costing to help you make some cash!

Pricing for Sybiz's Import Costing is $1750 for a single-user licence. ■

Sybiz
Phone: (02) 9954 5211
www.sybiz.com.au

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Multimedia

CD-ROM reviews

OCEAN: ORIGINS OF LIFE

Being a cheery, old fashioned sort of Aussie geezer (he lied) there are certain words that automatically provoke a hat-doffing if not a tugging of the pitiful remnants of a once proud forelock. Arnotts, for example, Akubra, Vegemite, beer and, of course, CSIRO.

No, it's not the Hungarian branch of the Paul Sironen family but the dear old public education system. No, that's not the one. It's that other thing that rarely receives appropriate or encouraging treatment. Ummm?

Of course, you knew it all along. It's the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

Our very own boffins apply their names to good CD-ROM gear, and Ocean: Origins Of Life is very good indeed.

When not applying their super-scones to the Today Tonight Foundation's cutting-edge quest for sheep that sing early Tallis, or mining industry-funded research to investigate a possible link between tattooed rock stars and silicone implants, those eggheads and associates are in there, nose down, bum up, doing good stuff. The good stuff includes the CD-ROM gear.

Ocean is, in fact, very much a French-led international effort — Barry Jones only knows how these things work — and it aims successfully to present the origins of life in the ocean with élan, credibility, quality, in fact distinction all round. And, by the sacred gherkins of the Czar Maurice, its aim is true.

It is entertaining and enlightening and it doesn't treat one like a complete cretin. It's fun. Lots of music all over the place and, given the limitations of the medium and of my cheap and crappy speakers, it sounds pretty good. Voices are here that do not harm.

My eight- and five-year-olds were much impressed by prehistoric doovers oozing about their ancient domains and various click-on-this business. The actual substance of the disk is pitched at a more mature audience and it is not only considerable because it spans more than 500 million years of prehistory.

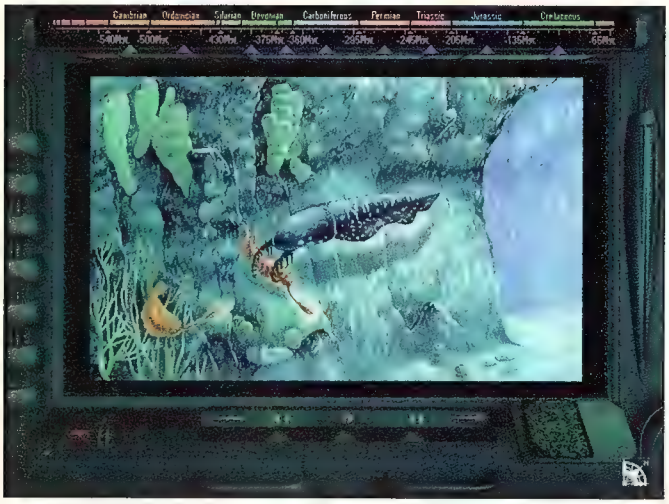
There's quite a lot of this one — it looks at the history of the prehistory, it ignores the potential pleasures and profits of extremely silly theories, you can trace the development of lines, flirt with fossils, oh, you can click yourself into a frenzy of relevant learning should the need arise.

This one's a winner (see Mystic Frank below) and, in news just to hand, we learn that this disk is, indeed, the winner of the Cannes Milia award for the best educational CD-ROM title — an award which, I am sure, would grace the most discerning sideboard.

Come. Hand in mouse we shall sail through the science and spectacle of the gulf between the Cambrian and Cretaceous periods, we shall wonder at the undulating jelly-fish portending time out.

We shall know ancient things and be mighty. We shall march into a future bereft of useless little plastic marketing things and cellulite and chiko rolls.

Ocean: Origins Of Life
Price: $69.95
Developer: CSIRO and others
Distributor: Dataworks
Phone: (03) 9764 8344



Explore the world's oceans with Ocean: Origins of Life

EASTERN DELIGHTS

The awesome powers of Mystic Frank, which have baffled the world's leading scientists and almost persuaded television gutter journalists to call a temporary halt to putting the boot in

on the defenceless, have triumphed again!

In a breathtaking display of disconcerting skills, to say nothing of those of a mysterious and spooky character, the man whom some consider to be Australia's leading psychic – viz, me – predicted in these very pages that some light-fingered hoon at the PC World office would pinch his copy of The Taste Of Italy CD-ROM at the first opportunity.

And lo, it came to pass.

Of course, you can't really blame the poor huddled loves, constantly chained to their evil-smelling steam PCs in the perpetual half-light of the dank bowels of Castle Naff, vast Ethiopes pounding the massive bull hide drum while disgraced Eastern European sports coaches scream maniacally for more, more, more from these sorry wretches subsisting on scraps from the Executive Dining Room and such naturally occurring fauna and flora as are commonly found in subterranean chambers.

The temptation must have been too great for skin and bone to stand. They probably ate the CD weeks ago.

There's a whole series of these tucker disks from Europress Australia and they are proving great fun. Perhaps I'll get a chance to enjoy the latest arrival a little more fully.

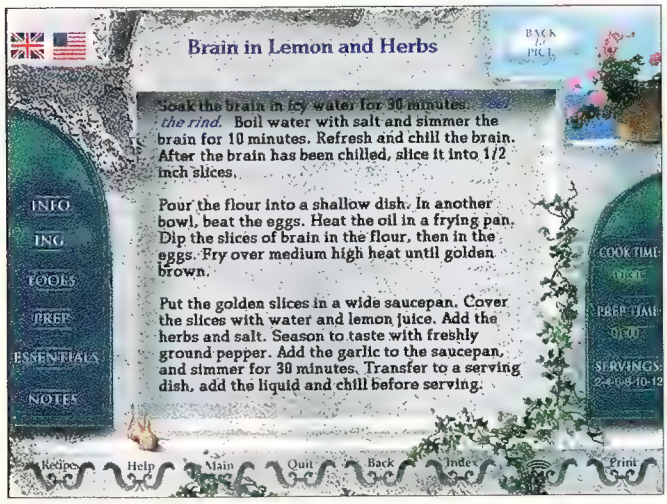
Mystic Me has been looking at Eastern Delights: A Taste Of The Mediterranean and thoroughly enjoying the bite-sized novelties therein.

I suppose it is a glorified cookbook really with the burden of the thing being more than 100 extremely tempting and simply presented recipes from Egypt, Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

It's the kind of grub that really suits a good Australian Summer when there can be few things more agreeable that a long, leisurely browse through a few taste sensations with friends and a moderate case or twain of light red flavour – exclusively for the sake of one's stomach, of course.

Eastern Delights goes beyond tightly presented and conveniently printable illustrated recipes (which, incidentally, will convert US or UK quantities to reflect the number of portions required) for it dips into a little something of the culture, mythology and character of their countries of origin.

Brain in Lemon and Herbs – just one of more than 100 Eastern Delights



Each Eastern Delights dish includes a list of ingredients, cooking instructions and a photograph

Perhaps not a lot of people know, for example, that Egypt is the birthplace of prototypes of pasta, mayonnaise and leavened bread. Of greater contemporary significance, perhaps, is the Egyptians' dubious distinction of eating more beans than "any other national group".

Speaking of music – there's also some apt and jolly sound here that is fun for a while, palls a bit and can be easily silenced.

Miraculously he transforms into a drooling facsimile of Homer Simpson: "Mmmm: braised pork with mushroom and coriander . . . all the way from sunny Cyprus, ohhhh." Then it's back to the finely honed analyst to comment favourably on the little hunks of background information and on the quiz section that I always find utterly resistible.

Simple to use, boldly and attractively presented, Eastern Delights is an enjoyable way to prepare for a meal. It's fun, tempting and at a recommended price of $19.95 you'd have to consider it excellent value.

Mystic Frank predicts that if this disk goes walkabout, I don't care how huddled and poor they might be, it's biffo time for the dungeon dwellers. ■

Eastern Delights: A Taste Of The Mediterranean
Price: $19.95
Developer: Europress Software
Distributor: Europress Australia
Phone: (02) 9748 4847

Multimedia Solutions

Snap happy

This month in PC World we preview some of the very latest digital cameras on the market for all you budding Max Dupains. So get snapping.

OLYMPUS CAMERA

New from Olympus is the Camedia-840L, a third-generation digital camera that has been created to offer users a portable and easy to use digital photography solution.

Australian distributor R. Gunz (Photographic) says the C-840L boasts a high-quality lens system that incorporates an all-glass 5.5mm aspherical f2.8 autofocus lens and low rates of compression.

The camera features three resolution modes, a digital tele/wide mode and supports PAL. Portability has also been addressed — the C-840L weighs in at 245g and is compact at 128mm x 65mm x 45mm.

Bundled with the camera is a 4MB SmartMedia card, with an option to purchase additional cards either 2MB, 4MB or 8MB in capacity.

Olympus' C-840L is currently available for an estimated retail price of $1499.

Olympus' new C-840L is a megapixel camera offering resolutions of 1.3 million pixels

---

R. Gunz (Photographic)
Phone: (02) 9935 6600
www.olympus.com

NIKON

Australian distributor Maxwell Optical Industries has announced it is shipping two new digital cameras from Nikon, the COOLPIX 600 and the COOLPIX 900.

The COOLPIX 600 has been developed to answer the demands of the low-end digital photography market.

Another 1.3 million-pixel camera, Nikon's COOLPIX 900 is aimed at the high end of the digital photography market

Its features include a 0.8 million-pixel CCD and the ability to produce images with a resolution up to 1024 x 768. According to Maxwell Optical Industries, COOLPIX 600 will fit snugly in the palm of your hand and weighs in at 210g.

Bundled with COOLPIX 600 is an 8MB compact flash memory, which stores either 32 fine, 64 normal or 192 basic images; a PC or Mac docking station; and a detachable speedlight.

To compose your images, you can either utilise the LCD or the optical viewfinder. Software concerns are addressed too, with the inclusion of Adobe Photo Deluxe 2.0.

For users requiring a higher-end photographic solution the COOLPIX 900 could be worth a look. Maxwell says it's the world's first digital camera to incorporate the high-quality Nikkor lens, which utilises Nikon-maufactured glass.

Its features include a 1.3 million-pixel CCD, a five-mode speedlight, 945-step autofocus and three-mode metering. Additionally, the camera sports a handy pivoting lens, a traditional optical viewfinder and offers automatic or manual modes.

COOLPIX 900 ships with a range of software that includes Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0, InMedia Slides and Sound and LivePix 1.0.

Pricing for the COOLPIX 600 is $1195 RRP while the COOLPIX 900 is $1895 RRP.

Maxwell Optical Industries
Phone: (02) 9390 0201
www.nikon.com

SANYO

The VPC-X300 is Sanyo's latest offering to the world of digital cameras, and is a beefed-up version of the vendor's VPC-G200 model.

For a recommended retail price of $1399, users can purchase a digital still camera boasting a built-in monitor that lets you view your snaps the moment you take them, a 3x zoom lens and an 810,000 pixel CCD.

Another nifty feature is the unit's voice memo facility that enables you to record voice or sound to accompany every snap you take.

The kit includes a PC interface cable and software that permits you to transfer your images to either a PC, VCR or TV.

A removable SmartMedia memory card is bundled with the VPC-X300, so you can easily download your shots when the camera is full, and continue going snap-happy. ■

Sanyo Australia
Phone: (02) 9735 3822
www.sanyo.com.au

Sanyo's latest digital camera offering, the VPC-X300, features a 3x zoom lens

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BEATING BACK AOL's INSTANT MESSENGER

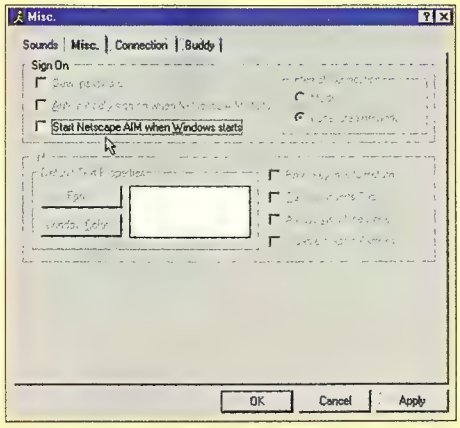
Q - I hope you can help me. I installed Netscape Communicator 4.04 onto my machine from your cover disc recently. It installed fine, but every few days I get an "AOL Instant Messenger" window popping up when I start Windows. It's very annoying and I would like to get rid of it but can't work out how to. Please, please help!
- Martin Atkinson

A - Recent versions of Netscape Communicator ship with AOL's Instant Messenger, a "chat" application designed for (but not exclusively for) users of America Online.

Unfortunately, once installed, AIM won't leave you alone. Like unregistered shareware, it often displays "nag" screens prompting you to sign on.

If you don't want to sign on to the service, there are two ways to deal with these intrusive dialogue boxes.

First, you can disable the application. When the Sign On dialogue appears, click the *Setup* button and clear the *Start Netscape AIM when Windows starts* checkbox. That should stop the prompting, but if you know you're never going to use the Instant Messenger, you can delete it permanently. To do this, delete the folder c:\Program files\Netscape\Communicator\Program\Aim (your path may vary) and remove the AIM file from Netscape's User directory (normally c:\Program files\Netscape\Users*your name*). Now the Instant Messenger won't bother you any more.
- Neville Clarkson



Clear the *Start Netscape AIM when Windows starts* option to disable AOL's Instant Messenger

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MORE TIPS ON INSTALLING ADDITIONAL PARALLEL PORTS

Congratulations on your new magazine format. It is great. Your mag consistently has the most useful info in it (bar none) and your CD actually has programs that work!

With regard to Roy Chambers' reply on setting up an extra parallel port to handle scanners, Zip drives etc (*Add a parallel port*, May 98, p156), I feel he may have over-simplified the issue and I can understand why – it's a tricky job to explain sometimes.

1. Some systems (eg 486 DX 4/100 or similar) may require disabling of the on-board parallel port in the BIOS settings before an extra LPT card can be added. The instruction manual with most motherboards should tell you, but then most of them are pathetic anyway!

2. Adding a simple I/O card can be fraught with danger and frustration. These cards often come with an even more pathetic set of instructions and, sadly, as I have encountered, the jumper setting instructions are sometimes wrong!

3. Once you have set up your basic I/O card (ie disabled the HDD, FDD, set the LPT memory address and IRQs etc), you still have to contend with getting Win 95 to accept the settings. LPTs don't come easily to Windows 95. It is pretty pointless to ask the OS to install the hardware because mostly it won't.

In most cases you have to tell Windows to accept a conflicting setting – then change it to a non-conflicting setting (the memory address and IRQ). So, if you don't understand IRQs and addresses you could have problems.

I find that a two- or three-port card which is capable of handling ECP, EPP etc with a wide range of IRQ settings is a wise investment (some of the cheaper cards don't support ECP and EPP). Disable the on-board port in the BIOS and set the new card to the appropriate port settings (with jumpers or software) and then Win 95 will readily accept these settings (although you may still have to set them manually as mentioned above).

- Jim Priebe

VFAT ERRORS

Q - I have a problem starting Win 95. When I attempt to start the system, I get an error message stating: "VFAT device initialization failed...System halted."

Do you have any ideas?

- Deunell Heldt

A - This is another one of those cryptic error messages that Windows 95 appears to specialise in. According to Microsoft, there are three conditions that might generate this error.

1. Windows cannot find the correct version of ifshlp.sys. Check your Windows folder for this file. If it's not there, extract a new copy from the Win 95 installation CD.

It's also possible that your **config.sys** file contains a statement that loads an earlier version of **ifshlp.sys**. You can check this by booting in safe mode (or from a floppy) and opening **config.sys** in a text editor. If you see a line which reads: **device=c:\windows\ifshlp.sys** or similar, delete it.

2. Path information in msdos.sys **is incorrect.** Start the system in safe mode by hitting **<F8>** (when the message *Starting Windows 95* appears on-screen) and choosing *Safe Mode Command Prompt Only* from the startup menu. To view the contents of **msdos.sys**, enter the following command: **type c:\msdos.sys**. You should see lines similar to the following in the **[Paths]** section of the file:

[Paths]
WinDir=c:\windows
WinBootDir=c:\windows
HostWinBootDrv=C

Make sure that **WinDir** and **WinBootDir** point to the folder which contains your Windows files. **HostWinBootDrv** will most likely be **C** unless you are using DriveSpace, in which case this variable should point to the drive letter of your host drive.

If changes are required, you will need to clear the file's system, read-only and hidden attributes. Do this by entering the command: **attrib -s -h -r c:\msdos.sys**. Then type **edit c:\msdos.sys** and press **<Enter>**. Save your changes when you exit the text editor. Finally, reapply the file attributes by entering the following command: **attrib +s +h +r c:\msdos.sys**.

3. Winboot.ini is present in the root folder of your boot drive. If it is, it shouldn't be! **Winboot.ini** is a configuration file used by Windows 95 setup to recover from potential mishaps. It has no business being on your system once Windows has been successfully installed. Follow the procedure described above to start Windows in safe mode and then delete **winboot.ini**.

- Neville Clarkson

IF YOU CAN'T DELETE, ASK THE DEVELOPER

With reference to an article in the June issue (*If you can't delete, cheat*, p150) – as I am one of the creators of the Cyclone tracking program I have been asked this question ["How do I remove the program?"] a few times. Firstly there should have been an **uninstall.bat** with the Zip file that Rosdy Kalat downloaded. If he had used this it would have removed the program.

The offending file **MCP_.exe** uses a common programmers' trick of having an invisible "alt" code at the end of the name. The easiest way for him to delete it would be to go into the directory that he installed it in (usually c:\cyclone) via the DOS prompt and type **del mcp*.exe**. That will get rid of it for him.

- Ian Gottke

GRAB THAT SCREEN

Q - I am having huge problems trying to locate a video card that is able to accept another computer's screen image (640 x 480) and to be able to screen grab that display (like a normal screen capture to the clipboard). All vendors I've spoken to say that video capture/compression is possible, but none has tried this method. The signal that I'm trying to capture is actually an RGB signal. The equipment is so old that it cannot print directly to a printer. Is there anything on the market at all?

- Anthony Baricevic

A - Video capture cards are designed to take the standard RF signal used with TVs and VCRs. Most computers produce an RGB signal that goes to a monitor.

While it is possible in theory to capture this signal, I know of no cards that can do this. However, I do have a solution which, while not perfect, will work with only a little loss of clarity. It is possible to buy a converter that will take an RGB signal and convert it into an RF signal so that you can display it on a standard TV. There are a number of converters on the market. The idea behind them is you can display a computer image on a large TV for small group presentations at minimal expense if you already own the TV. Your best bet in tracking one down is to look in the Yellow Pages under Audio-Visual Equipment. Because TVs do not have the same resolution as a computer monitor you will lose some image quality. To get the image into your computer, instead of plugging the RF signal into a TV, plug it into a video capture card.

Other solutions include simply photographing the screen with a standard, Polaroid or digital camera. The photographs can be scanned in and the cost will be fairly low. If you need moving images you can videotape the screen. You may need some equipment to eliminate screen flicker while videoing. You will also need a video capture card if you want to input the pictures into your computer.
- Roy Chambers

CONFIGURE MULTIPLE DUN CONNECTIONS

Q - I have a question regarding Dial-Up Networking. To access my ISP I only need the TCP/IP protocol and a dial-up adapter installed. To dial into the office server (running NT 4) I need to add NetBEUI, Client for Microsoft Networks and file sharing for files and printers.

All that is fine but I don't want to have NetBEUI and file sharing enabled while dialling into my ISP because of the security issue. I have set up different users to access both, but the network changes apply across the board. Can I set up different Net profiles under HKEY_USERS in the Windows Registry so that I don't have to change the settings and restart each time I want to access the other server? Or can I run a script that would apply the changes as I log in under different usernames?
- Nigel House

A - The main security issue when connecting to the Internet relates to individual applications such as Web browsers. This issue is a little different from the one you raise.

Having the Client for Microsoft Networks enabled on your computer may allow people at your ISP to browse your computer and access your files. It will not allow people on the Internet to access your computer. Rather than configure individual users to have specific network configurations, you can configure each dial-up uniquely.

There are a few things that you can do to make your dial-up connection more secure. You can disable NetBEUI and IPX/SPX for your ISP's dial-up connection. These protocols are automatically enabled when you set up a dial-up connection in Windows 95 and it is a good idea to turn them off if you don't need them. Do this by going to *My Computer-Dial-Up Networking*. Right-click on the connection that you want to configure. Click on the *Server Types* tab. Make sure that the *NetBEUI* and *IPX/SPX Compatible* checkboxes are unchecked. This will mean only TCP/IP is used for the dial-up connection and there will be no need to remove the other protocols from the *Network* control panel.

The next thing to do is make sure that Client for Microsoft Networks is bound only to NetBEUI or IPX/SPX. Do this by going to the *Network* control panel. Select the TCP/IP protocol and click the *Properties* button. Click on the *Bindings* tab and make sure that *Client for Microsoft Networks* and *File and Print Sharing for Microsoft Networks* are unchecked.

It is also worthwhile making sure that your share folders are adequately protected. You have a choice between share-level control and user-level control. If you are using share-level control you should password-protect each folder.

If you are using user-level control the usernames and passwords come from an NT domain controller which has been specified in the *Network* control panel. As you are not connecting to your normal domain controller, remote users cannot access your shared folders.
- Roy Chambers

READ WORD 97 DOCUMENTS IN EARLIER VERSIONS OF WORD

Q - I'm having trouble reading an important file that was created in Word 97. Of course I have Word 95! Is there a utility that will help? I don't want to donate another $140 to Microsoft.
- Casandra

A - Microsoft offers a free viewer application which will let you view (but not edit) Word 97 files. This utility is particularly handy for users who need to view Word documents but don't have the Word application (rumour has it there are still some folks out there who haven't succumbed to the Microsoft juggernaut!)

The Word viewer comes in various flavours, and obviously it's important to install the version appropriate to your system. Users of Windows 95 and NT need the 32-bit version (**wd97vwr32.exe**), while 3.x users should install the 16-bit version (**wdvw9716.exe**). You can download these files from **www.microsoft.com/word/internet/viewer/** or from our cover CD.

To edit Word 97 documents in an earlier version of Word you will need Microsoft's format converter. The file **wrd97cnv.exe** can be used to install the converter on both 16-bit and 32-bit versions of Windows. Although this utility does save you the expense of upgrading to Word 97, note that certain formatting features unique to the current version of Word may be lost when documents are converted to an earlier format. The Word 97 converter can be found on our cover CD and at **support.microsoft.com/download/support/mslfiles/wrd97cnv.exe**.
- Neville Clarkson

TAME YOUR NETWORK ADAPTER

Q - I was trying to upgrade one of our work PCs to Windows 95 and connect it to our network when the following problems occurred. I wonder if you can help me out.

When initially loading Windows 95 the computer worked OK. I then →

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manually installed an SMC network card (16-bit NE2000 compatible) which caused the CD-ROM (Sony CDU33A-01) to crash with an error that says that the device is not turned on or attached. I have not been able to get the CD-ROM working since then, as even the DOS command line parameters produce the same error.

I have checked all card connections many times and they seem OK. Is the problem with the CD fatal and if so how can I tell? If not, how do I recover the CD?

- Michael Hopkins

A - If the CD-ROM is attached to a SCSI card or sound card, the network card could be conflicting with it. This is easy enough to test. Simply pull out the network card and the CD-ROM should start to work. Here is how to resolve the conflict and get the network card to work.

Most new PC expansion cards are Plug and Play. There are cards, especially those that predate Windows 95, which are not. Plug and Play cards — in conjunction with a Plug and Play system BIOS — "work out" what settings the expansion card should have and Windows configures the drivers appropriately. Non-Plug and Play cards have preset factory settings. To use other settings you need to manually configure the card.

Most network cards have special configuration utilities. Many network card manufacturers have Web sites from where you can download the setup utility. The SMC Web site is at **www.smc.com**. From there you will need to download a utility called EZStart. Older SMC network cards may need a utility called EZSetup. Other brand network cards will have their own setup utilities.

To configure the network card you first have to use the *System* Control Panel to work out what Input/Output range (Port), Memory Range and Interrupt Request (IRQ) settings are free. Then restart the system in MS-DOS mode. MS-DOS mode is essential to be sure that the setup utility works reliably (do not use a DOS shell). Configure the card with settings that you know are free.

Restart the computer so that you can install the correct drivers for the card. Windows 95 has a tendency to detect a number of different network cards as NE2000 compatible. Many network cards are in fact NE2000 compatible and will work with the Windows 95 NE2000 network drivers. But Windows 95 may determine that a network card is NE2000 compatible when in fact it is not. Sometimes a network card that is supposedly NE2000 compatible will not work correctly with the Windows 95 drivers. If the operating system tells you the card is NE2000 compatible you should install the Windows 95 drivers that came with it on disk, or download updated drivers from the vendor's Web site.

Chances are the network card will not work because Windows 95 has chosen the wrong settings for the card. Open the *System* Control Panel and click on the *Device Manager* tab. Select the network card and click on the *Properties* button. Click on the *Resources* tab to enter the correct settings for the card.

- Roy Chambers

E-MAIL FOR FREE?

Q - I am a regular reader of *Australian PC World*. Do you know any place on the Net that gives out free POP3 e-mail accounts? By this I mean a company that allows me to download my e-mails using something like MS Internet Explorer 4.0's Outlook Express. I have looked everywhere I could think of including Hotmail, Yahoo, Angelfire, and iName. They all offer free e-mail, but I have to log in and view my e-mail in a Web browser. This is really annoying since I cannot print or read them unless I go on the Net. If you could find one or two places that might offer a free e-mail account that would allow me to download my e-mail using Outlook Express, it would be greatly appreciated.

- Kevin Ibrahim

A - Post Office Protocol Version 3 (POP3) is a set of rules that a server uses to transfer e-mail to your computer. POP3 is ideal if you want to retrieve e-mail from an Internet host and work with it offline. To use this type of service, you connect to the mail server using a POP3 e-mail client such as Outlook Express or Eudora and provide password details as required. You will then receive a list of the contents of your mailbox. You can delete unwanted messages from the list, and then download the rest of the messages to your computer. Since you spend less time online, it's a great way to save money.

There are a number of places on the Net which offer free POP3 e-mail accounts, and most of them use some form of advertising to support themselves. It's difficult to find any Australian sites, but you may want to check out the services offered by an American company called SoftHome, whose Web pages can be found at **www.softhome.net**. They offer free, permanent e-mail addresses to individuals (business users have to pay), and all you need to have is a program that is able to accept e-mail via the POP3 protocol. SoftHome provides online instructions for configuring Netscape Navigator 3, Netscape Communicator 4, Microsoft Internet Explorer and Eudora to access their mail server. Outlook Express can be set up for this service too.

If you want to look at some alternatives to SoftHome, there is also a lengthy list of free POP3 mail servers at **members.xoom.com/ayhan/pop3.html**.

- Belinda Taylor

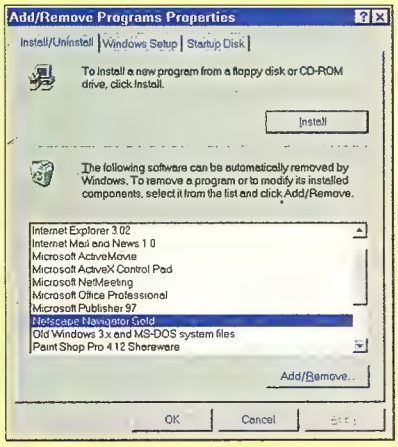
TROUBLESHOOT COMMUNICATOR SETUP

Q - I hope you can help. I recently bought *PC World* and tried to install Netscape Navigator 4.04 onto my Windows 95 computer, but it kept locking up when 99 per cent installed. I am not a computer whiz and probably did something wrong. I tried to search your site for a fix but didn't find one. Could you give me step by step instructions on how to install this program? I am running Netscape Navigator 2.02 now. Also, if there are problems with 4.04, should I forget about it and try to track down Netscape Navigator 3? Where could I find this? Thank you for your time.

- Keith Lawrence

A - It's unlikely that you've done anything wrong, and you should be able to install and use Navigator 4.04 if you want to. The problem is more likely to lie with InstallShield, especially if you are installing Navigator as part of Communicator 4.04 from the file called **cb32e404.exe**, although it may also occur if you install the stand-alone version of Navigator 4.04 from **n32e404.exe**. (Note: this discussion focuses on Version 4.04. However, the troubleshooting steps described below also apply to Version 4.05.)

InstallShield is a software tool that is often incorporated into compressed installation files and is designed to help you install and uninstall programs on your computer.



Old versions of Netscape Navigator can be deleted using Windows 95's *Add/Remove Programs* dialogue box

According to information from Netscape, there are several things you can try to resolve the problem.

Remove any previous installations of Navigator. To do this in Windows 95, choose *Start-Settings-Control Panel*, and double-click on the *Add/Remove Programs* icon. Select *Netscape Navigator* from the list of programs and click the *Add/remove* button. Choose *Yes* and you're done.

Open your **autoexec.bat** file (in the root folder of drive C:) with Notepad and make sure that the TEMP environment variable is set. Look for a command such as **SET TEMP=C:\TEMP** or **SET TEMP=C:\WINDOWS\TEMP**. Also look for the command **SET TMP=C:\TEMP**. If these commands are missing, type in **SET TEMP=C:\TEMP** as the second last item in your **autoexec.bat** file. The important thing is to have a folder designated to store temporary files.

Check that C:\TEMP exists on your computer. If it doesn't, create it.

Check that the self-extracting installation file (**cb32e404.exe** or **n32e404.exe**) is in a folder by itself. If you discover a folder beginning with a tilde (~) in the same folder as the installation file, it is probably a temporary folder which was created by the InstallShield program and was left behind during a crash. Delete it and any other files in the folder.

Check that there is enough space on your computer to install new programs. Setup programs often create temporary files, so you'll need enough free space to accommodate them as well as the program you're installing.

Reboot your computer, and run the installation program again.

If you still experience problems installing Communicator or Navigator, it may be because the installation file is damaged in some way. You could try getting a fresh copy of the file from another source (PC World's cover CD generally includes the latest version for your OS).

Netscape has acknowledged that some video drivers can cause problems during setup, and if you experience difficulties, they recommend switching to a VGA video driver while you install Navigator.

If Navigator 4.04 won't install after you've tried all these suggestions, you may want to try installing an earlier version of Netscape, or alternatively, consider installing a different browser such as Internet Explorer.

- Belinda Taylor

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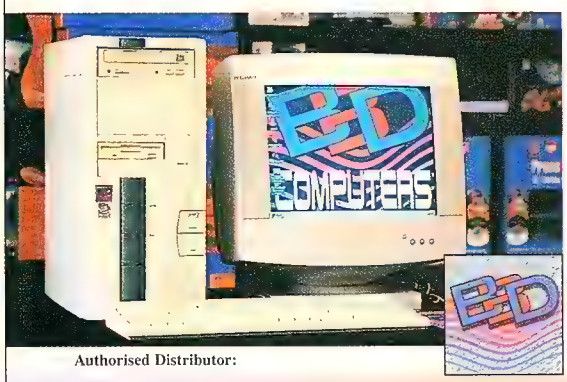

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UPDATE MULTIPLE FRAMES SIMULTANEOUSLY

Q - I have a Web site which utilises frames. When I click a link in one frame, I would like the contents of *all* frames to be updated. I thought I could do it like this:

<A HREF="page1.html" TARGET="frame1" HREF="page2.html" TARGET="frame2" HREF="page3.html" TARGET="frame2">.

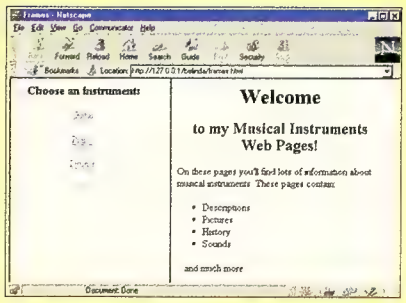
Is this the right way?

- Lee Thalbourne

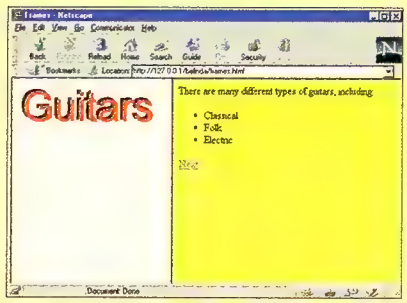
A - Almost, but not quite. The logic is fine, but unfortunately your HTML code won't work because it doesn't follow standard HTML syntax. The process of using a hyperlink in one frame to load a new page in another frame is called "targeting". You can achieve this by adding the **TARGET** attribute to the **<A>** anchor tag that will be clicked to load a new page. For example, the code: **<A HREF="page1.html" TARGET= "frame1">Click Me</A>** creates a hyperlink called "Click Me" in one frame which will load the document called **page1.html** in the frame called "frame1". HTML only lets you specify one **TARGET** attribute for each **<A>** tag, making it impossible to change multiple frames from one link using this method. However, the good news is that you can change multiple frames with one click by using JavaScript. Any hyperlink in your page can be transformed from a boring, old ordinary link to a one-click wonder by adding some JavaScript code similar to **onClick="window.self.location='newpage.html'"**.

To illustrate this concept, I've created a simple Web page that is divided into two columns by frames, using the following code:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD><TITLE>Frames</TITLE></HEAD>
<FRAMESET COLS="250,* ">
<FRAME SRC="index.html" NAME="index">
<FRAME SRC="main.html" NAME="main">
</FRAMESET>
</HTML>
```



Click on *Guitar* in the left-hand frame . . .



. . . and both frames are updated simultaneously

The left frame, which is called "index" using the **NAME** attribute of the **<FRAME SRC>** tag, contains a page called **index.html**. It displays a list of links which act as an index for visitors. When you start using frames it's important to name them in this way to prevent major headaches when you try to pull all your frames and pages together and make them behave. It's also a good idea to organise your frames, names and targets on paper before you actually begin writing the HTML.

Of course, some WYSIWYG HTML editors will save you lots of pain by doing most of the work for you, and that's a good idea too!

The HTML for **index.html** is:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD><TITLE>Index</TITLE></HEAD>
<BODY BGCOLOR="ffffff">
<CENTER>
<H3>Choose an instrument:</H3>
<P><A HREF="guitar.html"
onClick="window.self.location='sideguitar.html'"
TARGET="main">Guitar</A>
<P><A HREF="piano.html" TARGET="main">Piano</A>
<P><A HREF="drum.html" TARGET="main">Drums</A>
</CENTER>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

The right frame of my page is named "main" and it contains a page called **main.html**. This frame acts as a display and information area. The code for **main.html** is:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD><TITLE>Main</TITLE></HEAD>
<BODY BGCOLOR="#ffffff">
<P><CENTER><H1>Welcome</H1>
<H2>to my Musical Instruments Web
Pages!</H2></CENTER>
<P>On these pages you'll find lots of information about
musical instruments. These pages contain:<P>
<UL>
<LI>Descriptions
<LI>Pictures
<LI>History
<LI>Sounds
</UL><P>...and much more.
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

Index.html (in the left frame), contains a hyperlink called "Guitar" that changes both left and right frames simultaneously. When the Guitar hyperlink is clicked, the left frame changes to a page called **sideguitar.html**, which has the following structure:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD><TITLE>Side Guitar</TITLE></HEAD>
<BODY BGCOLOR="#ffffff">
<IMG SRC="axe.gif" WIDTH="218" HEIGHT="67"
ALIGN=middle>
</HTML>
```

→

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The right frame now holds a page called **guitar.html** which looks like this:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD><TITLE>Guitars</TITLE></HEAD>
<BODY BGCOLOR="#ffff80">
<P>There are many different types of guitars, including:<P>
<UL>
<LI>Classical
<LI>Folk
<LI>Electric
</UL><P><A HREF="guitar2.html">Next</A>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

The magical JavaScript that makes these pages work is contained in the link **<A HREF="guitar.html" onClick="window.self.location='sideguitar.html'" TARGET="main">Guitar</A>**, which is part of **index.html**. The **<A HREF="guitar.html"** section refers to the new document, **guitar.html**, that will load into the right frame when the link is clicked. The term **onClick** simply means "when someone clicks this", and **window.self.location** points to the window where **onClick** occurs, that is, the left-hand frame, which changes to contain the file called **sideguitar.html**. The right hand frame is changed by the **TARGET="main">Guitar</A>** section, which targets the frame called "main" as the new host for **guitar.html**.

There are other ways of using JavaScript to change multiple frames, but this one does the job nicely, and can be modified to suit other frames. It's also inline (inside an HTML tag) so you don't need to use <SCRIPT> tags in your page. If you use JavaScript, syntax is crucial, so make sure to include all the dots, spaces and quotes as they are in the example code. Also, remember that not every browser can cope with JavaScript. This particular example works with Netscape Navigator 2.x, 3.x and 4.x, and also with Microsoft Internet Explorer Version 3.x and higher.

- Belinda Taylor

ENDLESS DEFRAGMENTING

Q - I thought you might be able to help me with a problem I'm having with Disk Defragmenter under Windows 95b. It keeps restarting after about 10 seconds or so with the message "drive contents changed — restarting".

The only other programs that I thought might have any influence on the problem are PartitionMagic and IBM's LANDisk virus scanner, both of which are loaded. However, LANDisk is only set up for custom scans when I activate them.

The problem also occurs on my second computer, which has the same programs loaded. I've tried all different sorts of configurations to no avail and I've run out of ideas except for deleting each one of these programs in turn. I thought I'd ask you first in case it was a common problem that you knew about and didn't have anything to do with the two programs I've mentioned.

- Glen Gray

A - This problem affects both Disk Defragmenter and Scandisk. If any changes are made to the hard drive while these utilities are being run they need to restart. This can be a real problem as you could have any number of programs running surreptitiously in the background that could write to the hard drive. Scandisk at least has a command line version that can be run exclusively in MS-DOS mode. With Disk Defragmenter you have to track down all the offending programs and close them.

Some running programs appear as buttons on the taskbar. These are easy enough to find and close. Others will appear as an icon in the notification area (the part of the taskbar where the clock is). You can usually right-click on the icon and choose *Exit* to close these programs.

Other programs will give no hint of their presence. For example, one of the programs that commonly causes problems with Disk Defragmenter is Microsoft's Find Fast.

This is part of Microsoft Office and so is present on the vast majority of computers. To turn it off go to the *Control Panel* menu and double-click the *Find Fast* icon. This will bring up the Find Fast window. From the *Index* menu choose *Pause Indexing* then close the Find Fast window.

It is fairly difficult to second-guess which programs might write to the hard drive. However, programs that might keep a log file, such as virus checkers, are likely candidates. Holding down **<Ctrl>-<Alt>-<Del>** will bring up a list of running programs. You can close these programs by selecting a program name and clicking the *End Task* button. Before running Defragmenter close all programs except the three that are essential for running Windows 95. These are Explorer, Osa and Systray. Some programs may take a little while to close and you may be prompted by a dialogue box saying that the program is not responding. Simply click on the *End Task* button to close that program immediately.

- Roy Chambers

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

Q - I refer to your Iomega Zip drive article (*Zip drive death click is for real*, June 98, p176) and the statement therein that "the company will replace defective Zip drives . . . or disks under the limited lifetime warranty". Here briefly is my experience.

On 28th November last year I purchased a Gateway G6 Computer fitted with an internal Iomega Zip Drive. The drive proved to be faulty and was replaced by Gateway. The faulty drive had damaged one Zip 100MB cartridge, which was not replaced by Gateway and I was advised to obtain a replacement from Iomega.

On 13th February 1998 I sent a fax to Iomega's Sydney office setting out the details, but received no reply.

I subsequently visited Gateway in Sydney and they tested the Zip cartridge and confirmed that it was damaged beyond repair. I was informed that they would obtain a replacement from Iomega →

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and they retained the damaged cartridge.

Today I contacted Gateway in Sydney and was advised that Iomega had not replaced the cartridge and that I should seek a replacement from Iomega myself. Gateway has been unable to advise me of the present whereabouts of the damaged Zip cartridge.

How do I now obtain my warranty replacement?

- John Gray

A - Unfortunately, John's experience of being "bounced" from one vendor to another is all too common. Have you ever phoned a software company's technical support line and been told to contact your hardware vendor? And then called the hardware company and been assured your software is at fault? If so, you are sure to sympathise with John's predicament. Where exactly does the buck stop?

According to spokesperson Manoj Murugan, "Gateway generally doesn't replace faulty damaged storage media such as FDs, Zip, Jaz etc, especially in cases such as this when a third party's equipment has caused the problem."

Well, in most cases we don't expect system vendors to replace damaged media. But in this case, the disk shipped with the system and was therefore part of the package purchased by the consumer. In these circumstances it seems reasonable to expect the disk to be covered by the system warranty.

We raised the matter with Gateway and Iomega, and both companies promptly offered to replace the damaged disk. We also received a statement from Peter Dawson, Iomega's country manager for Australia and New Zealand. "Our goal has always been, and continues to be, to delight our customers in each of our encounters with them, and to deliver high-quality, reliable and affordable products," he wrote.

Any reader who is less than delighted with his or her Iomega product should contact Iomega technical support by e-mail at custsvc@iomega.com or by phone on (02) 9955 2455.

- Neville Clarkson

Windows

ONE-CLICK EXITS

Want an easy way to shut down Windows? Ryan Pfeifle suggests this approach: right-click the desktop and choose *New-Shortcut*. Then type **c:\windows\rundll.exe user.exe, exitwindows** (your path may differ), click *Next*, type a name for the Shortcut, and click *Finish*. Double-click this icon any time to exit Windows.

To create a keyboard Shortcut for exiting, right-click the icon, select *Properties* from the menu, click the *Shortcut* tab, and click in the *Shortcut key* box. Press the keys you want to use to activate your shutdown Shortcut (they must begin with **<Ctrl>-<Alt>**, **<Ctrl>-<Shift>**, or **<Shift>-<Alt>**).

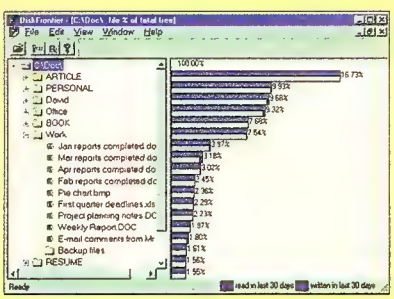
If you want a Shortcut that restarts Windows rather than simply shutting it down, change the command line in the *Target* box to read **c:\windows\rundll .exe user.exe,exitwindowsexec** (your path may differ).

- Scott Dunn

TRACK DOWN BLOATED FOLDERS

Do you wonder what's taking up all the space on your hard disk? Disk Frontier tells you in a bar chart that displays folders and files in order of size, with numerical readouts in bytes or percentages. Drag and drop the Disk Frontier Shortcut into the Windows\SendTo folder. Then right-click any folder and choose *Send To-Disk Frontier*. Disk Frontier is free for non-commercial use ($US25 otherwise). It's available on our cover CD and from its creator, Choice Computing (www.choicecomp.com).

- Scott Dunn

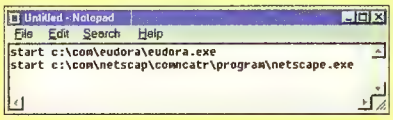


START MULTIPLE APPS AT ONCE

Q - Is it possible to make one Shortcut that will start two or three applications? This would be helpful for certain applications that I always use simultaneously, such as Netscape Communicator and a timer, and it would save me from having to double-click each Shortcut.

- Michael Martineau

A - No problem. In Windows 95, 98 and NT 4.0 you can create a batch file that launches as many programs as you want. Open Notepad and type **start** followed by a space and the command line of an application (eg **c:\windows\ calc.exe**), then press **<Enter>**. If your path includes long file or folder names, you must either enclose the path with quotation marks (eg **"c:\program files\accessories\mspaint.exe"**) or use shortened versions of the long names (**eg c:\progra~1\access~1\mpaint.exe**). Add more lines following this pattern for each program you want to start with the one icon.



Start multiple programs from one Shortcut by creating a simple batch file

When you're finished, choose *File-Save* and type a filename (in quotation marks) with the **.bat** extension. (The quotation marks keep Notepad from overriding the .bat extension with its default .txt extension). Double-click the batch file (or its Shortcut) to launch the programs.

Launching multiple programs with one icon is not a feature of Windows 3.1, but File Manager provides a minor exception. In Program Manager, select the File Manager icon and press **<Alt>-<Enter>** to open the *Program Item Properties* dialogue box. At the end of the command line, type a space, then the path to another application. Click *OK*. The File Manager icon will now launch itself plus the new application simultaneously.

- Scott Dunn

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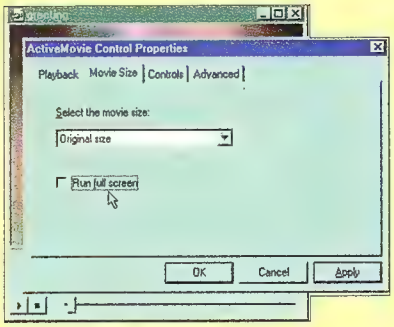
CALL THE TUNE IN MULTIMEDIA PLAYER

If you double-click a movie file associated with the Media Player accessory, you will see the movie, but with limited playback controls. Not to worry. Just double-click the title bar to display the normal Media Player window with complete menus and controls for resizing, auto-rewinding, or otherwise modifying your view of the movie.

If your system has run movies with ActiveMovie, as it will under Windows 98, just right-click anywhere in the movie window and choose *Properties* to get all the controls.

- Scott Dunn



Right-click a movie and select *Properties* to control how you view it

STOPPING CD-ROM ENTRY

Q - How can I lock the CD-ROM drive when Windows 95's screen saver is on? The screen saver's password protection keeps people off my desktop, but if someone inserts a CD into the drive, the autoplay feature can cause problems.

- Norman Kay

A - It's amazing what we have to do to keep other people off our computers. A CD-ROM's autoplay won't override a screen saver's password protection, but it can launch a program behind the scenes.

The best solution is to turn off autoplay. Right-click *My Computer* and select *Properties*. Click the *Device Manager* tab and then the + next to *CDROM*. Select your CD-ROM drive, click the *Properties* button at the bottom of the dialogue box, click the *Settings* tab, and uncheck *Auto insert notification*. Click *OK* twice, and then *Yes*.

The problem with this method is that after you reboot, neither CD-ROMs nor audio CDs will start automatically — even when you put them in the drive. But you can create an icon to get back at least some of the lost convenience: double-click *My Computer*; right-click and drag the CD-ROM drive icon to either the desktop or the Start button, and select *Create Shortcut(s) Here*. Double-clicking this icon (or selecting it on the Start menu) will autoplay whatever CD is in the drive.

- Lincoln Spector

Word processing

CREATE CUSTOM TEMPLATES IN ANY WORD PROCESSOR

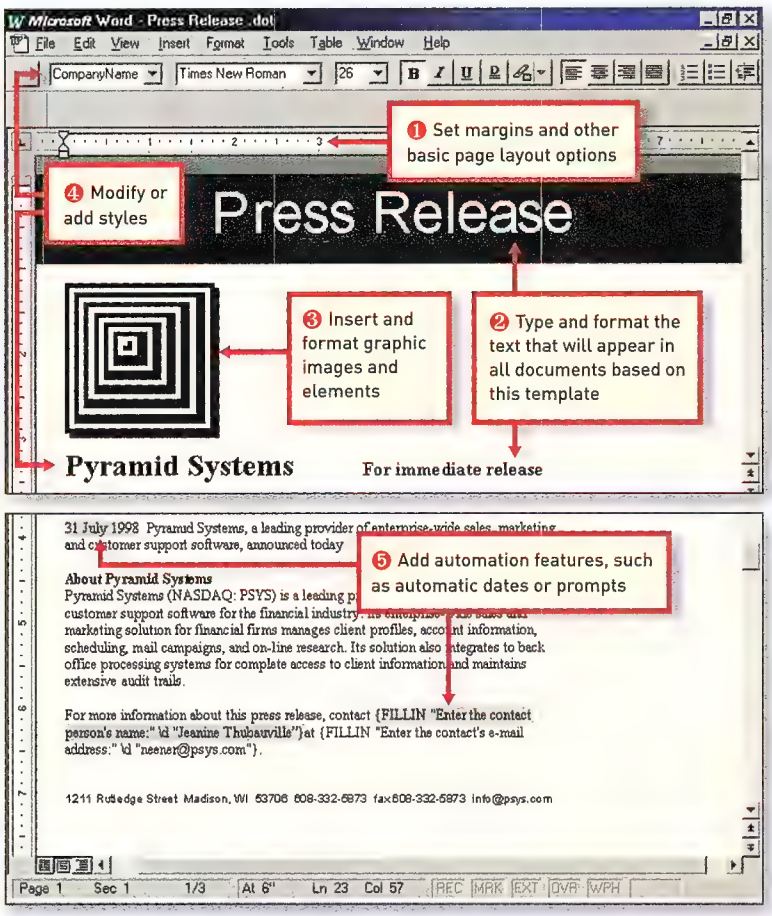
If you need a template for company letterhead, invoices, or other heavily formatted documents you create regularly, you could modify one of the built-in templates in your favourite word processor.

Better yet, you could start from scratch and make your own templates. It's easy. Here's how to create customised templates in Word and WordPerfect. Afterwards, you'll be able to access your new templates by selecting *File-New* in your program.

Word 6.0 and later. If you have a formatted document you can use as a model for your template, open it, then delete all text that won't be common to all documents created with this template. Retain other parts of the document, including the graphical elements. Skip to step 6.

1. To create a template from scratch, select *File-New* and choose the *Blank Document* icon or the *Normal* style sheet (Version 6.0) in the *New* dialogue box, then click *OK*. Select *File-Page*

Build your own template from scratch in Word



Setup to set margins and other basic page layout options.

2. Type and format any text that you want included in all documents created with this template.

3. Using normal Word tools, insert and format any graphical images needed in all documents, along with borders, lines, blank tables, and other graphical elements.

4. To add special text styles to the template, select *Format-Style* and modify existing styles or create new ones from the *Modify Style* or *New Style* dialogue box.

5. If you want to add automation features, such as automatic dates or prompts that ask the user for text, position your cursor where you want the prompt to go, and then select *Insert-Field*. To insert the current date, for example, select *Date and Time* in the *Categories* list of the *Field* dialogue box and choose *Date* in the *Field Names* list. Click *Options* to pick a date format. If you want to prompt users for text, add a fill-in field — select *(All)* in the *Categories* list, then click *Fill-In* in the *Field Names* list. See Word's built-in help for information on how to use fields to automate your documents.

6. Once you're satisfied with the template, select *File-Save As*. In the *Save As* dialogue box, choose *Document Template* in the *Save as type* list. Type a file name in the *File name* field. Click *Save*. If you're working in Word 95 or 97, the new template will appear under the *General* tab in the *New* dialogue box. To save it under a different tab, double-click the appropriate folder icon before you click *Save*.

WordPerfect 6.0 and later. WordPerfect won't let you save an existing document as a template.

1. Select *File-New*, then choose *Options-Create WP Template* (in WordPerfect 8) or *Options-New Template* (in WordPerfect 6.x and 7) in the *New* dialogue box. Then select *File-Page Setup* to set margins and other page layout features (in Version 8), or use commands in the *Format* menu (in earlier versions).

2. Type and format any text that you want included in all documents created with this template.

3. Using the customary WordPerfect tools, insert and format any graphical images needed in the document, along with borders, lines, blank tables, and other graphical elements.

4. If you have special text styles you want to use in the template, select *Format-Styles* and modify existing styles or create new ones in the *Style List* dialogue box.

5. If you want to add automated prompts to help users create a document, place the cursor where you want the prompt, then click *Build Prompts* on the template bar. Follow the instructions in the *Prompt Builder* dialogue box to add prompts, then select a prompt and click *Paste* to insert it in the template.

6. Once you're satisfied with the way your new template looks, select *File-Save As*. In the *Save Template* dialogue box, type a description of the template in the *Description* field and type a file name without a file extension in the *Template name* field. Then choose an appropriate document type in the *Template group* list, and click *OK* to save your template.

- George Campbell

GET QUICK FORMATTING INFO IN WORD

You can get instant information about the formatting of any text or graphic in a document, but few Word users know this little trick. Press **<Shift>-<F1>**, which turns the mouse pointer into a question mark with an arrow. Click on the text or graphic in question to call up a box showing formatting information.

Extra: After pressing **<Shift>-<F1>**, click on any command, icon, toolbar, or other feature on Word's window to see a description of that item. Just press **<Esc>** to return the mouse pointer to its normal function.

- George Campbell

EASY MARGIN CHANGES IN WORDPERFECT 8

Wouldn't you like to change the margins for a paragraph or two on the fly, without having to click through menus and open and close dialogue boxes? Here's a trick that lets you skip all that rigmarole.

Start by selecting all the text that has margins you want to change. Then move the mouse pointer slowly over the dotted margin line next to the selected text.

When the mouse pointer changes to a bar with a double arrow, click and drag the margin to a new location. Repeat on the other side if you want to change both margins. Click anywhere outside the selected area to continue normal editing.

- George Campbell

RESTRUCTURE TABLES IN WORDPERFECT 8

You spent your lunch hour creating a table. Now your boss wants to restructure it by combining some cells and splitting others. No problem. You can do this easily without retyping and without multiple menu commands by using new icons on the Table Property Bar. Start by clicking inside the table to display the Property Bar.

Restructure tables easily with WordPerfect 8's QuickJoin and QuickSplit icons

To join cells, click the *QuickJoin* icon on the Table Property Bar. The mouse pointer changes to an arrow with two arrows beneath it. Click and drag this pointer over the cells you want to join.

To split a row, simply click the *Quick-Split Row* icon, position the new pointer where you want the split to appear, then click.

To split a column, click the *QuickSplit Column* icon, place the new pointer where you want the split to occur, and then click again.

To return the mouse pointer to normal, click on the same icon you just used.

- George Campbell

TURN OFF BULLETS AND NUMBERING IN WORD

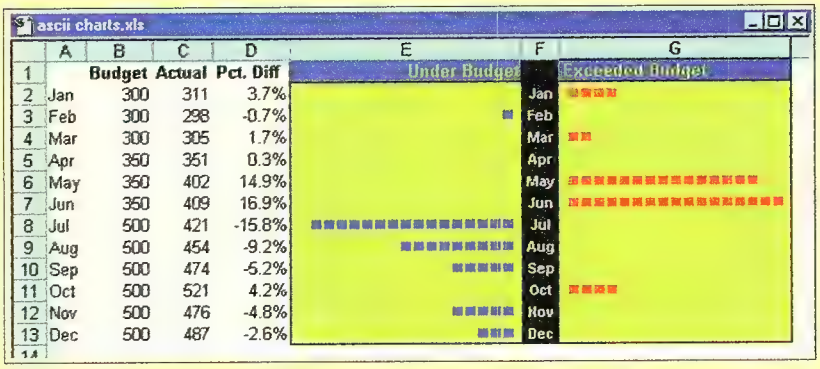
Once you start a numbered or bulleted list (by typing either a number and a space, or an asterisk, at the beginning of a line), Word continues to add a number or bullet each time you press **<Enter>**. How do you shut this feature off once you've finished the list? After pressing **<Enter>**, click the *Numbering* or *Bullets* list icon on the main toolbar. This will work even if you didn't use the icons to start the list.

- George Campbell

Spreadsheets

FORMULATE CHARTS DIRECTLY IN A RANGE

Keith Hermann sent in a clever way to create charts directly in a worksheet range using formulas. Below is an example of what you can produce with his technique. The formulas in Columns E and G graphically depict monthly budget variances by displaying a series of characters in Wingdings font. The number of characters displayed is determined by an If function.



	A	B	C	D
1		Budget	Actual	Pct. Diff
2	Jan	300	311	3.7%
3	Feb	300	298	-0.7%
4	Mar	300	305	1.7%
5	Apr	350	351	0.3%
6	May	350	402	14.9%
7	Jun	350	409	16.9%
8	Jul	500	421	-15.8%
9	Aug	500	454	-9.2%
10	Sep	500	474	-5.2%
11	Oct	500	521	4.2%
12	Nov	500	476	-4.8%
13	Dec	500	487	-2.6%

Formulas in Columns E and G produced this chart by returning a series of Wingdings characters

To re-create this chart in Excel, enter the data shown in Columns A through D, and then enter the following formulas:

E2: **=if(D2<0,rept("n",-round(D2*100,0)),"")**

F2: **=A2**

G2: **=if(D2>0,rept("n",-round(D2*-100,0)),"")**

Assign the Wingdings font to cells E2 and G2, and then copy the formulas down the columns to accommodate all the data. Right-align the text in Column E, and adjust any other formatting as you like. Depending on the numerical range of your data, you may need to change the scaling. Experiment by replacing the **100** value in the formulas. You can, of course, substitute any character you like for the **n** in the formulas to produce a different character in the chart.

This technique also works in 1-2-3 and Quattro Pro. Just use the @repeat function in place of Excel's Rept function, and insert an "at" sign (@) before the If and Round functions.

- John Walkenbach

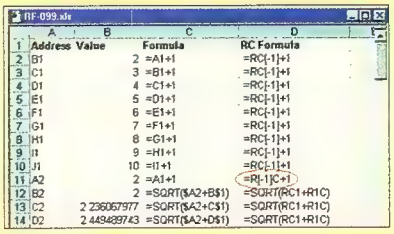
SPOT FORMULA ERRORS

When you're debugging a worksheet full of formulas, you may find it helpful to see the actual formulas rather than their resulting values. Many users know that to display formulas in Excel, you select *Tools-Options*, click the *View* tab, and then place a check mark next to *Formulas* in the *Window options* section of the dialogue box. The formula display isn't really suitable for printing, however.

A better approach is to generate a list of all the formulas in a worksheet by using the ListFormulas VBA macro. This downloadable macro, which works in all versions of Excel, inserts a new worksheet and generates a list of all of the formulas in the active worksheet. You can then print that new worksheet to help you debug formulas in the active worksheet.

The **rf-099.xls** sample worksheet shows some output that is suitable for printing. The output occupies four columns: the cell address, the current value of the formula, the formula in standard Excel notation, and the formula in R1C1 notation.

The R1C1 notation shows the location of a cell — the number after the R is the row number, and the number after the C is the column number. You can use this notation to compute the row and column positions in macros or to show relative cell references.



	A	B	C	D
1	Address	Value	Formula	RC Formula
2	B1	2	=A1+1	=RC[-1]+1
3	C1	3	=B1+1	=RC[-1]+1
4	D1	4	=C1+1	=RC[-1]+1
5	E1	5	=D1+1	=RC[-1]+1
6	F1	6	=E1+1	=RC[-1]+1
7	G1	7	=F1+1	=RC[-1]+1
8	H1	8	=G1+1	=RC[-1]+1
9	I1	9	=H1+1	=RC[-1]+1
10	J1	10	=I1+1	=RC[-1]+1
11	A2	2	=A1+1	=R[-1]C+1
12	B2	2	=SQRT($A2+B$1)	=SQRT(RC1+R1C)
13	C2	2.236067977	=SQRT($A2+C$1)	=SQRT(RC1+R1C)
14	D2	2.449489743	=SQRT($A2+D$1)	=SQRT(RC1+R1C)

Output from the ListFormulas macro can help you spot likely formula errors, like the one in Cell D11

There's another reason for including the R1C1 notation. If you sort the output using Column 4 as the sort key, identical formulas will appear together.

This makes it easy to spot an oddball formula that's slightly different from the others — and quite likely a mistake — such as the formula in Cell D11.

To use the ListFormulas macro, download it from our cover CD, or from **www.j-walk.com/ss/pcworld/index.htm**. Then open the worksheet that contains the formulas you want to list, and execute the macro.

- John Walkenbach

WEB ERROR MESSAGES AND HOW TO HANDLE THEM

You're clicking through Web pages nicely when you hit a brick wall — a page with big black letters that says "404 Not Found" or some other curt message. What does that mean, and what should you do?

Here are the most common Web error messages, the problems they signal, and the most likely solutions.

■ "404 Not Found: The requested URL **www.weebie.com/folkart/jim.html** was not found on this server."

Problem: Your browser found the computer on which the Web site is or was hosted, but no such page was found. The site's owner may have removed the page, the page may be down temporarily for maintenance, or the site may no longer exist.

Solution: Work back through the URL as if it were a directory path. For example, first try shortening the URL to **www.weebie.com/folkart**, then to **www.weebie.com**. You may discover that the Web site itself has disappeared.

Also, try suffixing the page's address with **.htm** or **.html** instead of its current extension. For example, in place of **jim.html**, type **jim.htm** (**.html** denotes the same thing as **.htm**, but some Web page hosting services require that Web pages be named with one or the other).

■ "DNS Lookup Failure" or "Unable to locate the server. The server does not have a DNS entry."

Problem: DNS stands for domain name server. A domain name is the first part of a URL — for example, **microsoft.com** is the domain name in **www.microsoft.com**. Every Internet service provider has a database of such Web page host addresses. When you type a URL, the browser tells your ISP to look up the domain name in its database. If it's not there, your ISP's computer may poll other domain name directories around the Internet to find out where the domain name can be located. If none of the directories can help, you may get the error message "DNS Lookup Failure."

Why can't they find the domain name? Maybe it no longer exists. Or perhaps it's so new that the domain name databases your ISP uses can't find it yet. You can also get this error message whenever there is heavy traffic on the Internet and it's taking your ISP too long to look up the name.

Solution: Try typing the URL into your browser later in the day. If you still get the error message, wait a few days and try the URL again. If you continue to receive the same message, the domain name probably no longer exists.

■ "No Response from Server"

Problem: Your browser can't get a timely response from the Web site's host computer. Heavy traffic on the Internet is often the culprit. Either the computer that hosts the Web site is overloaded (everyone is tapping in); your ISP is overburdened; or your ISP's computers are experiencing slowdowns for technical reasons.

Solution: Try the URL again, either in a few minutes or later in the day.

■ "Received Network Error"

Problem: Your ISP probably hung up on you, although this error message also occurs when glitches somewhere on the Internet have botched your file download.

Solution: Call your ISP back or start the file download again.

- Judy Heim

WEB SEARCHING AS EASY AS NAME-DROPPING

Carlos Guerrera writes that if you select and drag two or more words from any application, like your word processor or address book, and drop it into a Web page in Navigator 4.x, the browser will head to one of the major Net searchers like Lycos, Excite, or Infoseek (Netscape varies the searcher used) and look for Web pages that include those words. If you drag and drop only a single word, however, Navigator will treat it like a domain name. For instance, drop pcworld, and Navigator will head to **www.pcworld.com**. This doesn't work with earlier versions of the browser, however.

- Judy Heim

MORE THAN ONE WAY TO CUT A COOKIE

Oodles of readers have written in to recommend Anonymous Cookie, a free cookie-blocker from Luckman Interactive (**www.luckman.com**). Anonymous Cookie prevents Web sites from accessing a browser's cookie file, and although it can accept cookies, it only keeps them in memory. This means you can now navigate cookie-hungry sites without having to fight off repeated cookie requests. The cookies disappear once you've exited your browser. Anonymous Cookie works with Explorer and Navigator Versions 3.0 and up for Windows 95 and you will find it on our cover CD.

- Judy Heim

QUASH POP-UP ADS

They're one of the Web's great annoyances: ads that pop out of a Web site in separate browser windows, making you click them out of the way. But you can stifle the pop-up ads permanently by disabling JavaScript in your browser. (Don't confuse JavaScript, a scripting tool created by Netscape, with Java, a programming language developed by Sun. The two have little to do with each other.) The only drawback is that some Web sites may become a little less interactive. Some commercial sites, for instance, use JavaScript to automate the creation of forms.

In Navigator 4.x, select *Edit-Preferences*, click the *Advanced* category, uncheck *Enable JavaScript*, and click *OK*.

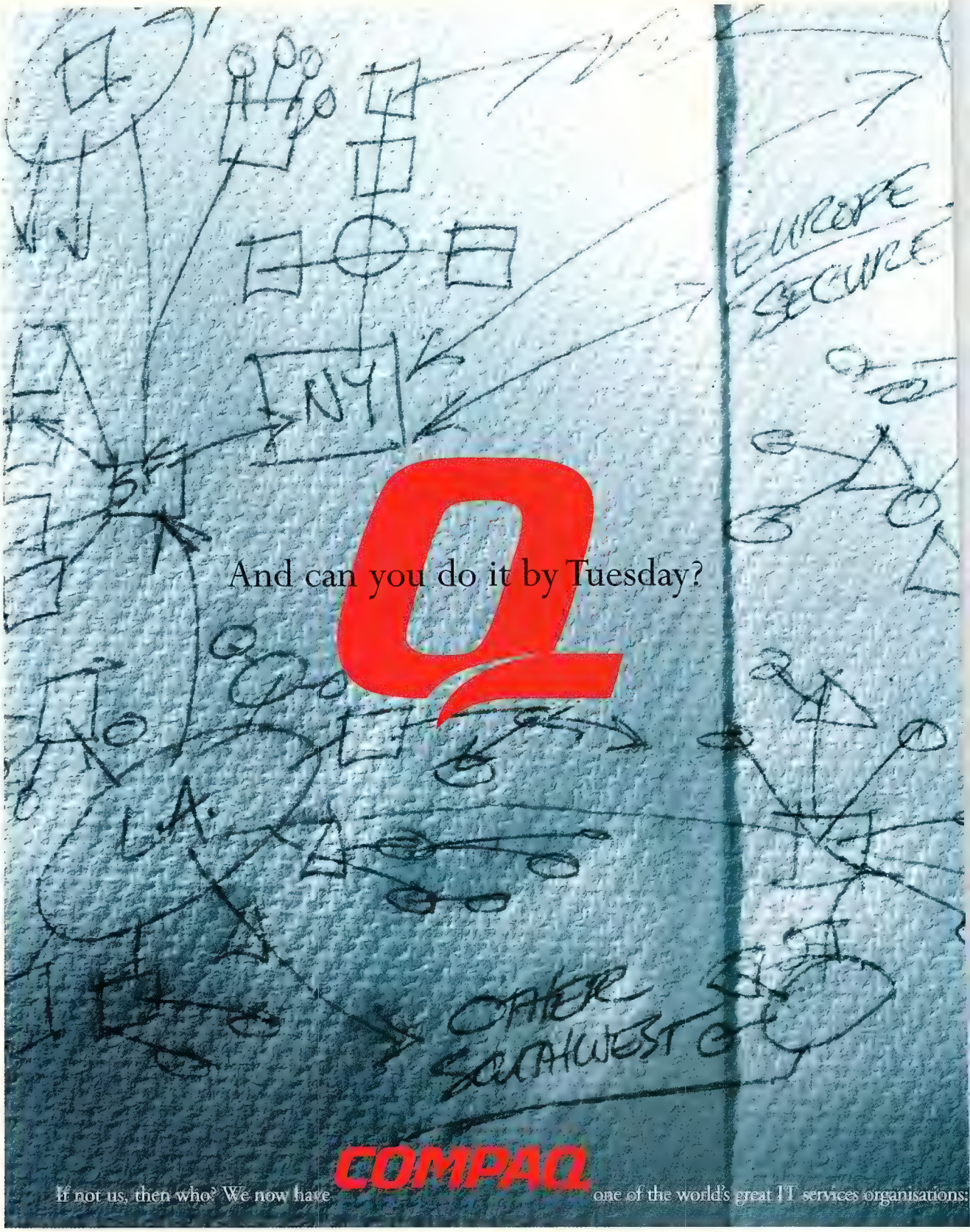
In Navigator 3.x, select *Options-Network Preferences*, click the *Languages* tab, uncheck *Enable JavaScript*, and click *OK*.

In Explorer 4.x, select *View-Internet Options* and click the *Security* tab. Choose *Custom* and click the *Settings* button. Scroll to the *Scripting* category and, under *Active Scripting*, select *Disable* (or *Prompt* if you want Explorer to prompt you before running scripts). Click *OK*, then *Apply*.

In Explorer 3.x, select *View-Options*, click the *Security* tab, and uncheck the *Enable Java programs* box.

- Judy Heim

→



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TOO MANY BROWSER WINDOWS

Even after you've disabled JavaScript, some Web sites will still spawn multiple browser windows — usually because their creators want to prevent you from leaving their site when you visit links. As Craig Lafferty complains, "When I look at my taskbar, there may be eight or nine open windows, most often loading in the background and slowing down the current window's activity."

Sorry, Craig, I can't find any way to stop these windows from opening. (But I'll bet we'll hear from our readers about this.)

- Judy Heim

BROWSER BUGS MY PRINTER

Anita Bonita upgraded to the Windows 3.x version of Netscape Navigator 4.0, but then discovered that all attempts to print to a later model HP LaserJet crashed her PC. Bonita soon remedied the problem by installing the LaserJet III printer driver and specifying the LaserJet III as the default printer in the Windows 3.x Print Manager before launching Netscape.

Bonita recommends copying the Print Manager icon into the program group containing the Netscape icon; this helps speed up the process.

After you're done with Netscape, switch back to your usual printer driver. This tactic will also work with Internet Explorer 4.0 when run under Windows 3.x.

- Judy Heim

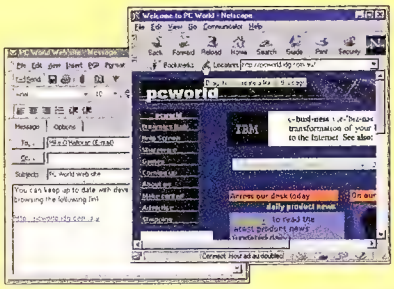
BULLET-PROOF YOUR FILE TRANSFERS

In the April issue, I recommended the Internet download utility Go!Zilla. Phil Marty has found something even better: Bullet Proof FTP (**www.bpftp.com**), a full-featured FTP program that resumes botched file transfers. It also offers a scheduling feature for automating transfers. At $US30, Marty considers it a bargain. I do too.

- Judy Heim

DRAG LINKS FROM NAVIGATOR

Want to recommend a particular Web page to a friend? Looking for a way to reference a URL in a document or worksheet? If the application supports OLE, Netscape Navigator 4.x makes this process a matter of dragging and dropping.



Make sure both your Navigator window and the target application appear on the screen. Then drag Navigator's Page Proxy icon (the one to the left of the URL on the location toolbar) to the target location.

Depending on the application you drag it to, you will get either the URL as text, or an Internet link file embedded in the document.

- Lincoln Spector

Hardware

WHEN YOUR SCREEN'S A SHADE OFF

If everything on your screen suddenly turns blue, green, or red, look carefully at the connection between your monitor and your PC. If the colour changes when you jiggle the cable, try checking the connectors, closely examining the pins. If a single pin is bent or pushed in, very gently straighten it or pull it out with a small pair of needle-nose pliers. If your connector looks good, try gently jiggling the cable every few centimetres. If you find a bad spot, use electrical tape and a toothpick to create a splint at that spot.

- Kirk Steers

FIX INTOLERABLE PROBLEMS BY REFORMATTING YOUR DRIVE

You've tried everything — running diagnostic utilities, replacing key files, even playing Bach sonatas to your PC. But it still suffers from at least one unbearable problem. When the damage is too deep or obscure to correct by merely fiddling around, it's time to clean off your hard disk and reinstall everything.

A clean slate

To start fresh, you can't just delete and then reinstall Windows 95 and all your software. Persistent PC problems sometimes stem from a damaged File Allocation Table (the table of contents that Windows 95 uses to locate files or specify damaged sectors on your hard disk).

ScanDisk or a similar disk utility will let you know when your FAT's in the fire. Clues include problems with file names or folder names that can't be fixed by running ScanDisk, and files or folders that won't open or can't be deleted.

To fix such problems, you reformat the disk — either physically (a low-level format) or logically (a high-level format).

A low-level format (first done at the factory) draws magnetic lines on the hard disk. Fortunately, these days you rarely need to redo a low-level format.

A high-level format creates a new FAT and scans the surface of the disk, finding and marking damaged sectors (those that won't hold data). Performing a high-level format is deceptively easy; simply run **format.com** in DOS or the Format utility (by right-clicking the drive icon in Windows 95 Explorer). But this wipes out everything on your drive; so before you try it, make sure you're out of other options.

Last-ditch effort

Here's one final alternative. Try moving your current installation of Windows 95 and other software to another hard disk (if you have one) or to a second partition on your current hard disk. Of course, the partition or second hard disk must have enough free space to hold all your files.

Once you've done this, you can

reformat the suspect partition and use it again. You can even move the operating system and your files back to the original partition.

To resize an existing partition or create a new partition without losing any data, use a utility like PowerQuest's PartitionMagic or Quarterdeck's Partition-It Extra Strength. Make the new partition a primary (not a logical) partition, since only primary partitions are bootable.

The next step is to make the target partition or second hard disk bootable. First, add the system files by opening a DOS box and typing **sys d:** (or the correct drive letter). Now set the target partition as the active, or boot, partition, using the DOS **fdisk** command (see *Repartitioning your drive saves space and trouble*, June 98, p170) or a utility like Partition Magic.

Finally, copy all but one of the files to the new partition, including those marked as hidden. (The exception is **win386.swp**, the swap file.) Go to Explorer and select *Show all files* under *View-Options* (or *View-File Options* with Internet Explorer 4.0 or Windows 98). Then select the Windows folder in Explorer, and hit **<Ctrl>-A** to select everything. Run down the left window, and find **win386.swp**; deselect it by holding down **<Ctrl>** and clicking the filename. Now copy everything else to the target partition.

Repeat this process to copy all the other files and folders, making sure that you deselect the Windows folder you just copied.

If the target partition is on the same drive as the original partition, you should be able to restart, and Windows will load from the new partition.

If you've copied Windows to a second hard drive, you must swap the connections on the two drives and possibly also switch their master/slave jumpers.

Don't burn your bridges

Partitioning won't do it? OK, time to reformat your entire drive.

This will blow away all the data that's stored there, so save everything you need:

Windows 95 installation files. Make sure you've still got your Windows 95 CD or floppies. And find the correct registration number; Windows 95 setup will ask you for it. It's usually posted on a green certificate that comes shrink-wrapped with the Windows 95 manual.

If you purchased the upgrade version of Windows 95 and installed it over Windows 3.x or DOS, you'll need your old program disks as well.

Configuration files and drivers. Back up the old DOS and Windows 3.x configuration files: **autoexec.bat**, **config.sys**, **win.ini**, and **system.ini.** When you reinstall Windows 95, the software will install the appropriate Windows 95 drivers.

But older devices in your PC may be running on older DOS or Windows 3.x drivers. If you find that your PC is using an older driver for a certain component, this is a good time to check with Microsoft or the component manufacturer to see if a new Windows 95 driver has been written since your last Windows 95 installation. Updating drivers is usually a good idea — especially if the upgrade involves switching from a DOS driver to a Win 95 driver.

If you do have to reuse your old drivers, make sure you back up the actual driver files as well as the configuration files that launch them. To be safe, back up all the files in a driver's folder, not just the file named in the configuration file. That goes for any hardware you installed after installing Windows 95. If you don't have the disks, hunt for the files on the hard drive.

Windows 95 Startup Disk. This is a bootable floppy with all the utilities you'll need to reformat your hard disk. In Control Panel, double-click the *Add/Remove Programs* icon, click the *Startup Disk* tab, and then click the *Create Disk* button to make the disk. In addition, you'll want copies of DOS's **xcopy32.exe** and **xcopy.exe** files.

If you plan to reinstall Windows 95 from a CD-ROM, you need a copy of your PC's DOS CD-ROM drivers on the Startup Disk, plus copies of **autoexec.bat** and **config.sys** with the

PUT YOUR DOS CD-ROM DRIVERS ON A FLOPPY

Steps	Helpful hints
1. Find **mscdex.exe** on the hard disk and copy it to the floppy.	Use the *Find* command (in Explorer, press **<F3>**) or check for the path in the command line in the hard disk's **autoexec.bat** file, if present.
2. Copy the **mscdex.exe** command line from the hard disk's **autoexec.bat** to the floppy's **autoexec.bat**.	Example: **C:\WINDOWS\COMMAND\MSCDEX /D:MSCD001** **Autoexec.bat** is in the root directory. Open it with Notepad or any editor.
3. Adjust the path in the floppy's command line.	Example: **A:\MSCDEX /D:MSCD001** Change only the path, leaving other parameters the same.
4. Find the CD-ROM drivers on the hard disk and copy them to the floppy.	Open the **config.sys** file in your hard disk's root directory and examine the command line for the location of the drivers on the hard disk. See the example below. Alternatively, they may be on a floppy disk that came with your PC.
5. Copy the CD-ROM driver's command line from the hard disk's **config.sys** to the floppy's **config.sys**.	Example: **DEVICE=C:\CDROM\NEC_IDE.SYS /D:MSCD001** **Config.sys** is in the root directory. Open it with Notepad or any editor.
6. Adjust the path in the floppy's command line.	Example: **DEVICE=A:\NEC_IDE.SYS /D:MSCD001** Change only the path, leaving other parameters the same.

To reinstall Windows 95 from a CD-ROM, you must first create a floppy disk that will enable the CD-ROM to work properly

A system resource report helps pinpoint the drivers you must back up

command lines that call those drivers.

If you don't have those last two files, search your hard disk for **auto*** and **config***.

Application software installation materials. As with Windows 95, you should have all the installation disks or CD-ROMs and all required serial numbers at your fingertips. Don't forget to copy any software you've downloaded from the Internet, too.

All files you want to save. Back up your data to another hard drive, a network file server, a Zip drive, or another PC via your parallel port — or in the worst case, in compressed form to floppies.

Anything else of value. Once it's gone, it's gone. So back up anything you might someday regret losing — including crucial settings information. If the PC is on a network, record all your network parameters (double-click the *Network* icon in Control Panel). If you do Dial-Up Networking, write down all the connection settings. And for good measure, crank out a system resource report and look it over for files you may have missed. (To make a printout, go to *Device Manager*, click the *Print* button at the bottom of the screen, and under *Report Type* select *All devices and system summary*.)

Go format

Before you run the **format** command, reboot from the Windows 95 Startup disk. At the A:/> prompt, confirm that your DOS CD-ROM drivers are properly installed by putting a CD-ROM in the drive and typing **dir d:** (or whatever drive letter is correct). A list of the CD-ROM's files should appear.

To format your disk — or the partition where you plan to reinstall Windows 95 — type **format c: /s** and press **<Enter>**. (Substitute an alternative drive letter if appropriate.) The /s switch will copy all the system files necessary to make the drive/partition bootable and ready for Windows 95 installation.

Insert the Windows 95 CD-ROM, type **d:\setup** (substituting your CD-ROM drive letter), and press **<Enter>**. The installation program will launch at once. Windows 95 will poll all your hardware and install drivers from the CD-ROM. Once Windows is running, you can install more recent drivers — or hardware Windows 95 didn't recognise — by double-clicking the *Add/Remove Hardware* icon in Control Panel.

- Kirk Steers

THE COLOUR OF RAM

Q - How much video memory do I need to run 16-bit or 24-bit High Color in Windows 95? These settings aren't offered as options on the Display Properties dialogue box's *Settings* tab [accessible by right-clicking the desktop and selecting *Properties*]. I have a 4-year-old system with only 512KB of video memory.

- Wayne Shannon

A - To calculate how much video memory you need, you must know the colour depth and the screen's horizontal and vertical resolution in pixels. Here's the formula: minimum video memory = HR x VR x CD / 8,388,608, where HR is the horizontal resolution, VR is the vertical resolution, and CD is the colour depth. OK, a bit more explanation:

Horizontal resolution (the number of pixels in a line across the screen) and vertical resolution (the number of horizontal lines on the screen) are the numbers used to describe screen resolution, such as 640 x 480, 800 x 600, or 1024 x 768. Multiplying them together yields the number of pixels displayed at a given resolution.

Colour depth is the number of bits needed to support a certain number of colours. For instance, you need 8 bits to produce 256 colours (28 = 256). Windows' High Color can display 65,536 colors; it uses 16 bits (216 = 65,536). To calculate the number of bits for an entire screen, simply multiply the screen resolution (number of pixels) by the colour depth.

Why divide by 8,388,608? Because video cards advertise their video memory in megabytes, and 1MB has 8,388,608 bits (8 bits in a byte times 1024 bytes in 1 kilobyte times 1024 kilobytes in 1MB).

The resulting number is the minimum amount of video memory you need to support that combination of resolution and colour depth. Of course, extra video memory doesn't hurt. It can be used to cache images for quick redisplay and improve video performance.

As for your PC, Wayne, bad news — its 512KB of video memory can't handle 16-bit High Color, even at 640 x 480. The best it can support is 800 x 600 with 256 colours or 1024 x 768 with 16 colours.

- Lincoln Spector

HOW MUCH VIDEO MEMORY DO YOU NEED?

RESOLUTION	256 colours (8-bit colour depth)	65,536 colours (16-bit colour depth)	16,777,216 colours (24-bit colour depth)
640 x 480	1MB	1MB	2MB
800 x 600	1MB	2MB	2MB
1024 x 768	2MB	2MB	4MB
1280 x 1024	2MB	4MB	4MB

Screen resolution and colour depth dictate how much video memory you need

ALL MICROSOFT, ALL OF THE TIME

Normally, this section covers product updates from any and all companies, with frequent appearances by Microsoft. But this month, The Vendor takes centre stage. With Windows 98 upon us, and the next version of Office — and Gates only knows what else — just around the corner, Microsoft is taking this opportunity to fix current versions of some of its flagship products while any of us still care. As usual, it's difficult to know precisely which bugs these (mostly forthcoming) updates will fix, and equally tough to gauge how important the fixes will turn out to be. Here's what we know so far.

It's still a patch: IE 4.0 Service Pack 1
When last we left our story, Microsoft had updated the notably buggy initial release of Internet Explorer 4.0. According to Microsoft, the 4.01 upgrade fixed several of IE 4.0's most severe problems, but the company would release neither a complete list of the known bugs in IE 4.0, nor the fixes included in IE 4.01. I don't know about you, but this left me to assume that IE 4.01 might soon be followed by an IE 4.02 with even more fixes.

But Microsoft is planning instead to post IE 4.0 Service Pack 1 to its Web site to smooth some of IE 4.01's roughest spots — that's right, it installs only over IE 4.01. According to Microsoft, Service Packs are different from version number upgrades. Service Packs don't include new features and aren't "must-haves", unless a Microsoft technical support person, Web page, or program installation routine tells you otherwise. Whatever you say, guys. SP1 includes repairs that many frustrated IE 4.0 users will consider essential, and it should be available as you read this.

Service Pack 1 fixes Outlook Express's tendency to crash when your modem connection cuts out, and may correct its *Open in New Window* option, which stubbornly opens links in the same old window. SP1 also resolves incompatibilities with specific Web sites, post-IE 4.01 security problems, and several annoying year 2000 bugs. The easiest way to download and install SP1 is to launch IE4 or 4.01 and choose *Help-Product Updates*, or point your browser to **www.microsoft.com/ie/download/**.
– Scott Spanbauer

DIRECTX 5.2 AND BEYOND

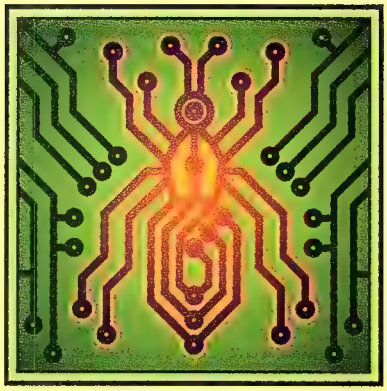
Inveterate (or invertebrate) gamers can stay on top of display bugs and get the latest drivers and tools by upgrading to the newest version of Microsoft's multimedia subsystem. The 3.5MB file can be found on our cover CD. However, DirectX 6.0, featuring numerous 3D display enhancements, may be available by the time you read this. Visit **www.microsoft.com/directx/download.asp** for more information.
- Scott Spanbauer

OFFICE 97 SERVICE RELEASE 2 — MYSTERY FIX

Office 97 debuted with its own share of snafus and incompatibilities, and Microsoft fixed many of them with Service Release 1. Now The Vendor has plans for Service Release 2, due to be posted sometime this winter (you'll find a link at **www.microsoft.com/office/office97/servicerelease**). Unlike many product updates, the Office 97 Service Releases aren't cumulative — to install SR2, you must first download and install SR1.

As we went to press, Microsoft couldn't tell us exactly what fixes SR2 would contain, other than an updated version of an Excel recalculation patch, and a PowerPoint patch that solves an obscure-sounding year 2000 flaw. Once released, Office 97 SR2 will update any Office 97 edition or stand-alone application. In the meantime, you can download the patches for Excel (**www.microsoft.com/Excel/enhancements/XL8P1.asp**) and PowerPoint (**www.microsoft.com/ithome/topics/year2k/product/pp97.htm**).

Bugs and fixes readers continue to send in reports of irritating Office 97 glitches. At last check, Microsoft's own online KnowledgeBase listed 200 known Office 97 bugs, some stemming from the Service Release 1 update. ■
- Scott Spanbauer



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Canon BJC-4550 (A3)/4650	$659/$CALL
Canon BJC-5500 (A3 & A2)	$1269
Canon BJC-7000	$619
Canon LBP660 (6ppm Laser)	$489
Epson Stylus 400	$259
Epson Stylus 600 (1440 x 720dpi)	$389
Epson Stylus 700 Photo	$499
Epson Stylus 800 (1440 x 720 dpi)	$519
Epson Stylus 850	$699
Epson Stylus Photo Ex (A3)	$849
Epson Stylus 1520 (A2)	$1695
Epson Stylus 3000 (A2)	$3189
EPL-5500+ (6ppm)	$799
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HP DeskJet 670C	$239
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HP DeskJet 720C	$575
HP DeskJet 870 CXI	$539
HP DeskJet 890C	$769
HP DeskJet 1120C (A3)	$865
HP DeskJet 1600C	$2299
HP DeskJet 1600CM	$3529
HP LaserJet 4000	$2099
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HP LaserJet 6L	$649
HP LaserJet 6P	$1379
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Optra SC1275 (A4 Col 12 ppm)	$6899

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Epson Filmscan	$929
Epson GT5000	$519
Epson GT8500	$1099
Epson GT9500	$1749
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BRING THAT 486 BOX UP TO DATE FOR LESS THAN $300!

By Paul Zucker

This month I'm going to revisit a popular topic: how and when to upgrade an older computer. In particular, a reasonably modern 486 that's just too slow to use, but too good to discard.

Understand from the start that I'm not talking about upgrading business computers. That's a much more practical decision, based on what you have to start with, what you expect, what you pay, who does it, and what the end result is.

This is about what you *can* do when you have an older machine, a few spare dollars, a spirit of adventure and lots of spare time. It might be your original home PC, it might be one you bought from work for $200, or it might be something you rescued from the footpath during the last council clean-up. Even the word "upgrade" is misleading, because what we're really doing is building a new computer, using some old bits.

Our test machine was basically what you see in the table on page 154. It had been a good Win 3.11 machine, but even though I'd loaded Win 95 on it to use as a student's home machine, it really wasn't up to scratch. By that I mean that it took so long to boot and so long to switch between applications, that it was rarely turned on and everyone lined up to use the newer home machine instead.

The last time we looked at upgrading a machine like this it was practical to pay around $300 for a plug-in Intel OverDrive processor that gave perhaps a two- or three-times speed increase. But this time, I decided to install a new motherboard and processor.

ILLUSTRATION BY TOM GARRETT

For argument's sake, this is the sort of machine we'll be upgrading. Make mental adjustments to suit your situation:

- 486DX-33 processor
- 4MB or 8MB RAM in 1MB SIMMs
- SVGA monitor
- 200MB to 500MB hard disk
- 3.5in diskette drive
- 16-bit sound card
- 512K VGA card
- Multi-function card with one parallel port, two serial ports, and controllers for two diskette and two hard drives
- 4x CD drive
- Win 3.1 or Win95
- Mini-tower case

The cards will either be EISA or VESA bus.

I went telephone shopping. I rang a number of PC World advertisers and was amazed to find how cheap things had become. I started off by asking what the difference was between the vast array of motherboards. I soon discovered that while you can spend hundreds of dollars to get a fancy Pentium motherboard, you can get a good one for as little as $100.

There are three advantages in buying technology that's a little less than the absolute latest: it costs a whole lot less; it's had the bugs worked out (those you'd find in the first ones off the production line); and there's bound to be more support (such as on the Internet) because you aren't the first person to use it.

I ended up buying something called an ExpertColor Multimedia Mainboard model TX531 — it cost $110 and they threw in a set of cables. It's a standard AT-size motherboard, so it fits existing 486 cases.

The specs on the box looked good, and the dealer gave it a good rap, so I bought it. I'd decided to buy an MMX chip and this motherboard calls itself "MMX CPU optimised", so who was I to argue? As you'll see later, I couldn't have been happier with my purchase.

I chose a CPU at the same time as the motherboard, mainly because I wanted an assurance that they'd work together.

I could have bought an genuine Intel 200MHz MMX Pentium for $210, but in the end I bought a chip that was labelled IBM PR200 MX, and I understand it's a Cyrix chip. It cost me $115.

Is an AMD or Cyrix or IBM 686 chip the same as an Intel chip? No! Is it better or worse? I don't know. Is it better value for the cheapskate upgrader? It certainly is!

The only other thing I simply had to buy was a fan and heatsink combination for $5.

Features of the ExpertColor Multimedia Mainboard:

- 512K cache
- Sockets for four SIMMs or two DIMMs for up to 256MB RAM
- Two Fast Ultra DMA 33 IDE controllers
- Dual diskette controller
- Two fast serial ports
- One parallel port (ECP/EPP)
- PS/2 mouse port
- Serial Infrared port and 2x USB port support
- Few DIP switches to set (I didn't have to change any)
- Auto voltage detection and switching for different CPU voltages
- PCI and ISA slots

HOW IT WENT TOGETHER

OK, so how did I proceed once I had the new "brain" back home? I pulled the old machine to bits, taking the opportunity to clean everything I'd be reusing. I didn't remove the power supply, but all the other removable bits came out — the disk drives, all the cards, the old motherboard and the CD drive.

When you do this, do one thing I didn't do: make a note of what the connectors on the front of the motherboard do. That is, the connectors that go to the things on the front panel like the disk drive light, the reset button and so on. With the best will in the world I couldn't see which lead went where, so it took a lot of trial and error to work out what was what. You should also make a note of the orientation of the two connectors from the power supply to the motherboard.

Installing the new motherboard went quite smoothly. I bought a little bag of screws and accessories for $3, which gave me a new set of the plastic stand-offs that mount the board to the chassis. There wasn't a complete match-up between holes in the motherboard and chassis, but the end result seemed much more stable than the original, especially as I'd installed a couple of threaded brass spacers into the chassis, letting me screw the motherboard down tight.

As you'd expect, the keyboard connector and all the card slots were in just the right positions. As I hinted at before, it took me quite a while to work out just what front-panel connectors went where. The motherboard was well labelled but the connector leads weren't!

The cable set (that the dealer threw in with the motherboard) came with two back-plane plates containing the necessary parallel and serial connectors. I put these in two spare "slots" in the case.

This was the first example of the

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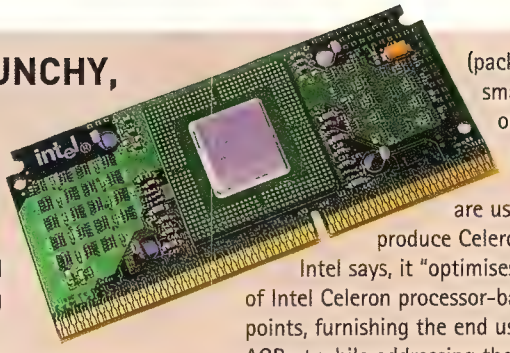

If the thought of anything less than the latest processor in your upgraded PC dismays you, then there may be a solution for you. Intel's latest processor for power home users is the Celeron, and compatible motherboards are just hitting the shops.

Note that you'll probably need to buy a new ATX case (around $100 and up) to fit the new motherboard. (For anyone interested in installing a new motherboard, there's some excellent information and pictures at the Tyan motherboard Web page; visit www.tyan.com and take a look around.)

At the time of writing, you can buy a 266MHz Celeron chip for around $270. It uses Intel's new single-edge connector, like the Pentium II, so that alone should make it look faster. It has MMX technology, a 32K cache, 0.25 micron technology (packing 7.5 million transistors in a small space) and Intel says it is optimised for home productivity and entertainment use.

Motherboard manufacturers are using Intel's 440EX AGP chip set to produce Celeron-optimised motherboards. As Intel says, it "optimises the overall system performance of Intel Celeron processor-based systems at Basic PC price points, furnishing the end user with the enhancements of an AGPset while addressing the price concerns of the Basic PC market segment."

Intel's own MU440EX motherboard uses this chip set. It has a 66MHz bus, four IDE device controller, two USB ports, video port, audio in and out (Yamaha chip set), midi/game connector, two DIMM sockets for up to 128MB of memory, two PCI and one ISA slot.

You'll have to ask around to see what your local dealer has — one board we found (due in late July) is PC Partner's EXA802D, for around $200.

new motherboard replacing stand-alone cards — where I had a multifunction card in the machine before, now I had all these features built-in to the motherboard.

In fact, you can go a lot further and buy a motherboard that also has onboard sound and video controllers. If you're anticipating the purchase of both these cards for your renovation, this is probably a good way to go, especially as you're unlikely to want to make a further round of upgrades later. And even if you are, you can disable these functions by software or hardware jumper settings.

The CPU went in now, followed by the clip-on heatsink and fan. This connects to a standard diskette power socket. This whole procedure must have taken just 40 seconds.

Throughout this procedure my only concession to static electricity was to leave the power supply plugged in to the wall, but switched off at the wall. This earthed the chassis, and earthed me too as I worked on things.

Next I plugged the two power connectors onto the motherboard, ran a new diskette control cable to the diskette, and a new cable to the hard disk. Luckily my old CD-ROM drive was IDE-compatible, so I connected it to the same cable as the hard disk. That still left me with the ability to add two more IDE devices, such as a second hard disk and second CD. If you like filling up your front panel, you could add a second diskette drive too.

I couldn't use my old RAM, as the SIMMs were the old 30-pin types. However, RAM is cheap nowadays, so you'll probably want to buy 32MB of new RAM, probably trading your old RAM in for a few dollars. (You can buy adapters to take the old RAM, but that's a stupid move as you don't save much and reliability is very poor.) I used 16MB.

I then installed the old VGA and sound cards because I was keen to fire things up. Imagine my pleasure — and relief — when the machine started. It went into a short auto-setup routine first, but I didn't have to change any settings or make any menu choices. Then it booted into Windows 95 (which was already installed on the hard disk) which proceeded to auto-detect the changed hardware and install the necessary drivers and so on. Heaven knows how much harder it would have been with Win 3.11.

The result was a blindingly fast machine with miserably poor graphics. I'd forgotten how basic 16 colours could look, and I'd long since become used to 24-bit colour running at 800 x 600 pixels.

So, it was off to the dealer to buy a new graphics card. As this was meant to be a budget rebuild, I splashed out on a generic-looking S3 Virge card with 2MB of RAM for $60. This was also my first PCI card in the new system, so it would be fun to see how Windows 95 handled it — once again the system detected and installed the card perfectly.

I love plug-n-pray when it works like this.

98 GOOD REASONS

But I still wasn't content, so I decided to load Windows 98 on the system. In for a penny, in for a pound.

Now this was Release Candidate 3, so is presumably fairly close to the shipping version. Because I only had a small hard disk, I couldn't take the option that keeps your old Windows installation on the disk in case you need to go back.

I needn't have worried, because everything loaded well, all the hardware was recognised, and it's at least as stable as Win 95.

How did it run? Let me tell you, the finished machine felt brand new. It's as fast a machine as I've ever used. On benchmark tests it runs around 10 per cent faster than the 200MHz Pentium MMX I use at work. Possible improvements would be adding more RAM (up to 32MB or 48MB) and a slightly faster CD (you can get a 24x for around $100 now), though I'd leave the old one in place for running an encyclopedia.

At a total cost of $293 (not including Win 98), this is the sort of upgrade that makes sense. Don't you agree? ■

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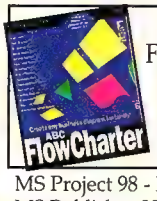

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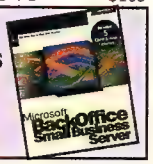

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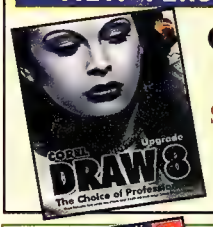

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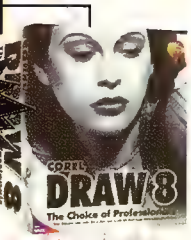

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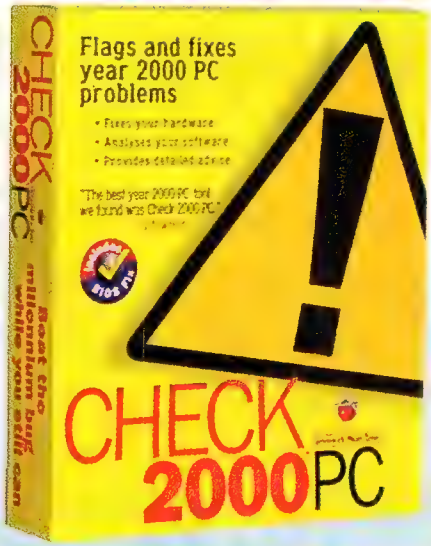

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Is it Serious?
Yes, it will cause many products to cease to function properly. Many programs will fail to work at all and many will cause errors in calculations which are date related.

Can I just set my computer to 00 to test it?
You probably should not do this as it may permanently corrupt data or cause a program licence to de-activate the software. Also be careful with other non-computer devices.

Which computer products are more likely to have the Yr2k bug?
Older hardware and software. For example most 486 PCs or earlier, many of the early Pentium PCs 60/75/90 etc. Most software created throughout the 60s, 70, and 80s will have the bug, and much of the software created in the 90s.

How can I find out more?
Research as much as you can as quickly as you can. The problem is urgent for many companies. There are many articles in the press, and our Harris web-site points you to a wealth of information from IBM, Microsoft, Toshiba, and many other sites.

Can I avoid this problem?
By taking action you may, but by doing nothing you are taking a great risk. **Visit our web-link for more information or phone to talk to our staff .**

So now that you know what the Year 2000 bug is, how can Check 2000 PC help you?
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DAA	No	Optional	No
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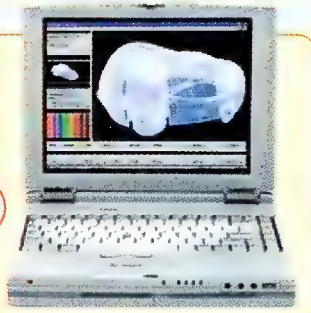
Pentium II



- Intel Pentium® II 266MHz processor with MMX™ technology
- 32MB EDO Memory, expandable to 160MB
- 3.8GB Hard disk drive
- SelectBay internal 20x Max speed CD-ROM / int. or ext. floppy disk drive with ext. cable
- Speakers and microphone
- 13.3" Active Matrix TFT display, 1024x768

Pentium II

(58558)

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HP OmniBook 2100 Notebook

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- 1 year warranty
- Windows® 95

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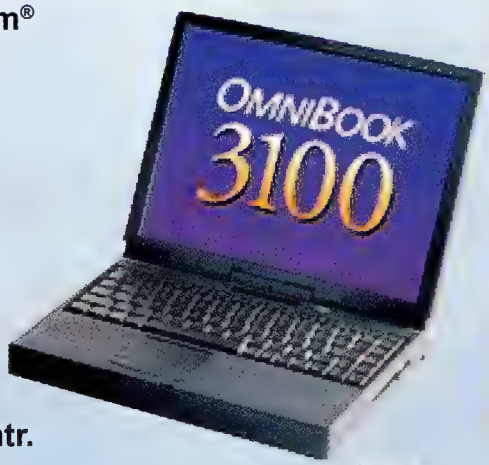

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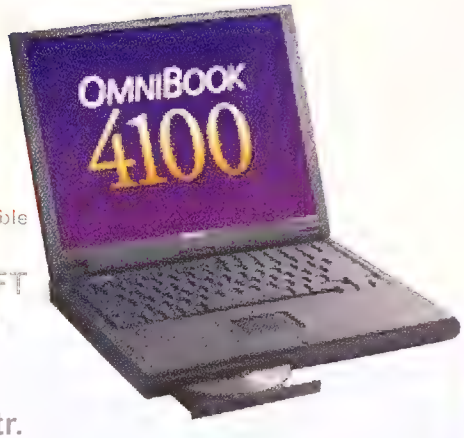
- 2MB Video DRAM 128 Bit Graphics Contr.
- SoundBlaster Pro compatible audio
- 24 x CD-ROM Speakers & Mic.
- 3 year warranty
- Windows® 95



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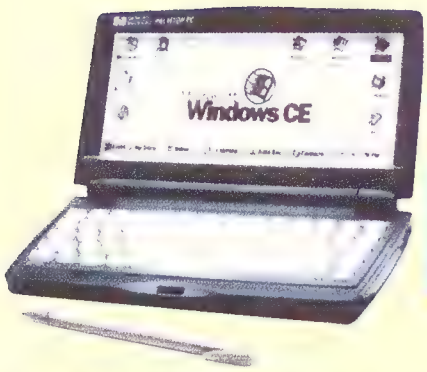

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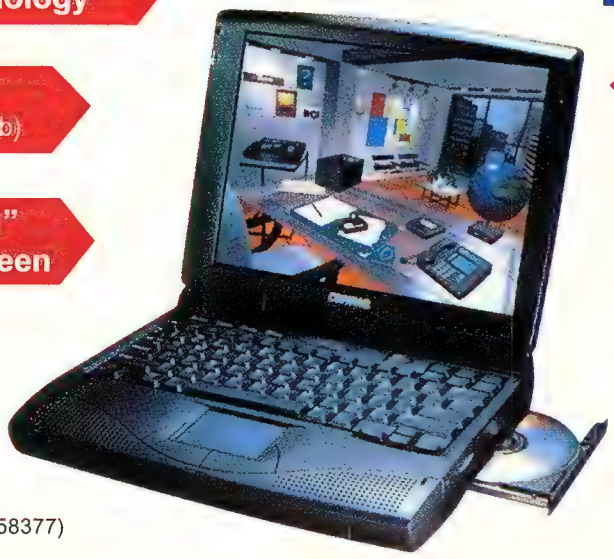

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(58378)	Armada 1598DT	266MMX	32MB	4.0Gb	13.3" CTFT	3.5Kg	**$4,960**

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RAM Std	32Mb	32Mb	32Mb	32Mb	32Mb	32Mb
Hard Disk	3.2Gb	4.0Gb	3.0Gb	5.0Gb	4.0Gb	3.2Gb
Screen	12.1"HPA	12.1"TFT	13.3"TFT	12.1"TFT	12.1"TFT	13.3"TFT
CD-Rom	24x	24x	8x			24x
Battery Life	3.5hrs	4.5hrs	2hrs	2.3hrs	3.5hrs	3hrs
Sound Capable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Modem	-	-	28.8/14.4	-	-	56K
Cardbus	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
PRICE	$4,189 (57478)	$5,990 (57479)	$6,098 (46884)	$5,779 (54369)	$6,990 (55532)	$7,490 (60356)

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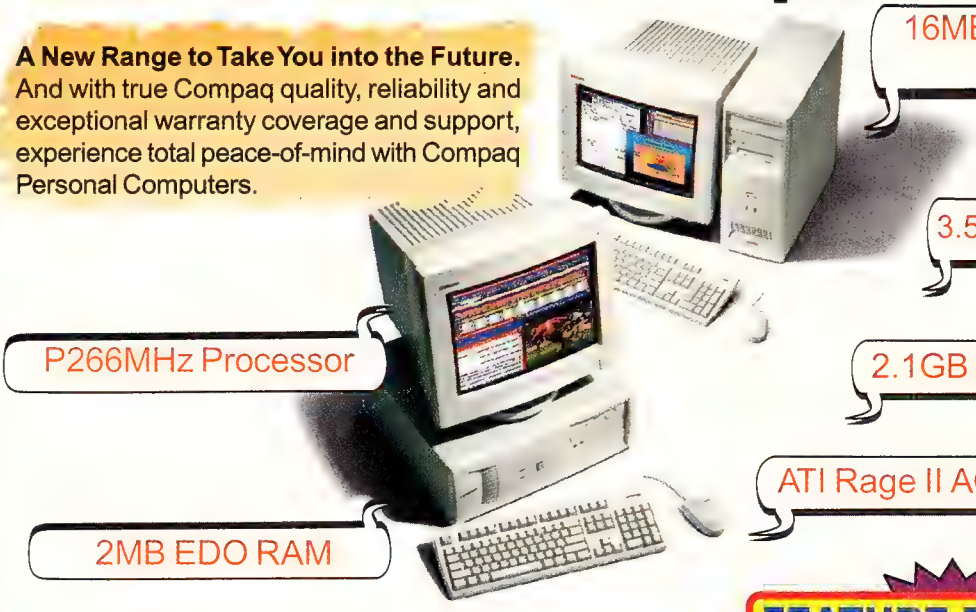

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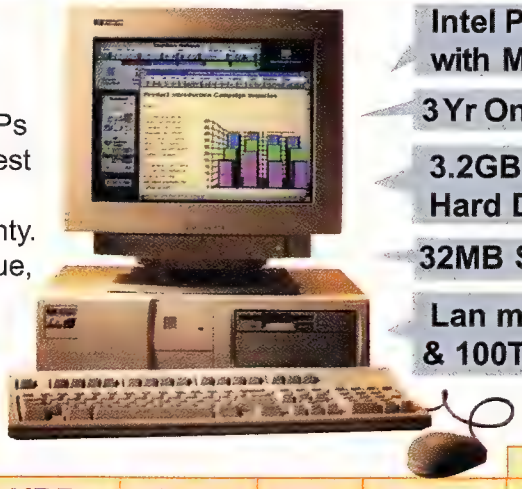

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- 3 Yr Onsite warranty
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- 32MB SD-RAM
- Lan models have 10 & 100TX remote boot

	Model	CPU	HDD	RAM	CD	Sound	Mon (42745)	Price
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(61631)	Vectra VE/4	200MMX	3.2GB	32MB	no	no	15"	2,718

Pentium® II Powered Vectra
With Windows® 95

350MHz, 32MB Ram, 4.3GB HDD, 15"
(42745 + 63672) **$4,428**

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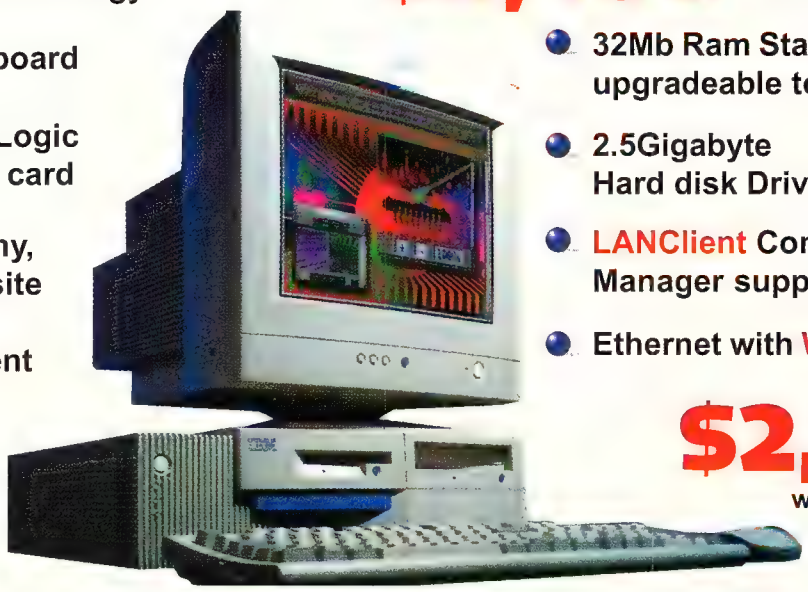
- 104 key keyboard
- 2Mb Cirrius Logic 3D Graphics card
- 3 Year warrany, 1st year on-site
- Netfinity Client
- Windows 95

$2,198 (56622) Without monitor



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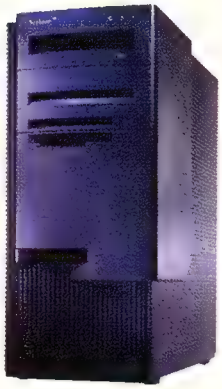

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- 233MHz Pentium II processors with 512KB ECC L2 Cache
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High-performance surge suppression protects your computer from electrical noise and damaging power surges - even lightning.

- **Easy Overload Recovery.** All APC Back-UPS Pro have a quick, easy push-button recovery circuit breaker instead of a standard fuse, so there is no need to return the unit to the factory for service. Whether you're hit by an overload or a short circuit, with APC you're quickly back in business.
- **Audible Alarms.** Because a UPS won't run forever on battery power, you need to know when to save files and shut down. If the unit is on battery, or if the battery is low, or even if there is an overload condition, APC Back-UPS Pro will let you know with an audible alarm.
- **Network Ready.** Connecting to a local area network (LAN) doubles your computer's exposure to damage. The network ready APC Back-UPS Pro protects your internal network card, your motherboard and other system components.
- **User replaceable, hot swappable batteries.** Easy to swap out without powering down the connected equipment.
- **Universal Hardware Compatibility.**

APC Back-UPS Pro 280 offers premium power protection for network nodes and home PCs.

For users of high performance workstations, APC Back-UPS Pro 420 or APC Back-UPS Pro 650 will assure peace of mind.

APC Back-UPS Pro 280va (43449) **$318**

APC Back-UPS Pro 420va (37947) **$435**

APC Back-UPS Pro 650va (28512) **$615**

Smart-UPS for servers with PowerChute® *Plus*:

700i **$898** (46834)

1000va **$1,099** (34611)

Back-UPS Pro for workstations (without PowerChute®):

Pro 1000 **$998** (41355)

Pro 1400 **$1,258** (37949)

Back-UPS

300va **$222** (56229)

500va **$289** (56230)

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PowerChute® *Plus* for Windows® **$89** (42950)

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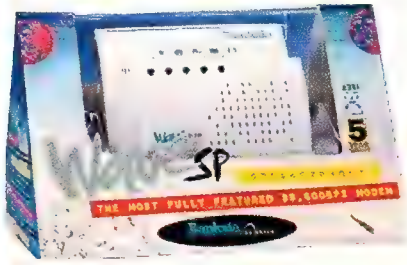
Drive Super-Highway 56

Wave SP 56KFlex

56K

The Wave SP 56KFlex Modem lets you fly through the Internet faster than ever before, as much as twice as fast as previous modems.



$258
(46276)

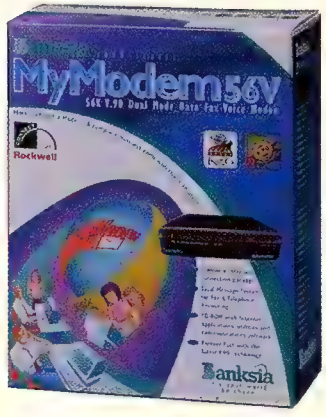
- K56Flex Modem
- V90 Upgradable at no extra cost
- Smart answer phone
- Hands free full duplex speaker phone
- 5 Year Parts & Labour Warranty, with Lifetime Support
- Full duplex speakerphone with echo cancellation
- Data upstream at 33.6, downstream at 55.6
- SVD Capable

Banksia MyModem 56

Brand new from Banksia is the MyModem 56,V.90 ready modem. Turn the Internet into a whole new experience as you witness the speed of this modem capturing data.

- 56K V.90 Dual Mode Data Fax Voice Modem
- Data transfer upstream at 33.6Kbps, downstream at 55.6 Kbps.
- 2 Year Parts & Labour Warranty

$279
(62589)

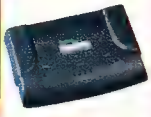


Banksia Modems

Comm Server
(58577)

$1,399

WebRamp M3
Modem Router
(52913)



$771

Banksia PCCard 56

$359
(63802)

A PCCard modem that slides into your notebook providing communications and messaging to the outside world.

- High-performance mobile computing solution for notebook users
- Communicate via standard telephone line
- Send & Receive electronic mail messages worldwide
- Send & Receive faxes directly from your computer
- Access the Internet from your Office or most hotels

ComboCard 56

56K

Banksia's ComboCard56 is the ideal solution for mobile professionals requiring both ethernet and remote connectivity. Incorpaorating an ethernet adaptor and fax modem.

FEATURE PACKED

- 56K Data Fax modem
- Flash upgradable to V.90
- V.42 & MNP5 Data Compression
- Standard 10BaseT Ethernet
- IEEE 802.3 compliant
- Fits into a Type II PC Card slot

$475
(63803)

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Communicate with Netcomm

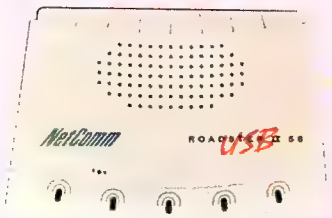
ROADSTER II 56 USB

98 USB Compatible for Win 98™

DESIGNED FOR WINDOWS® 98

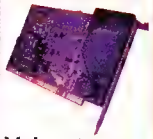
- Roadster II 56 USB modem - utilising USB technology, and the capabilty to connect to both K56flex and V.90 modems, now lets you surf the Net at speeds up to 56,000bps, without the bottlenecks of a normal serial port. The modem features full voice capability with voicemail and handsfree speakerphone operation (headset included!). With inbuilt SVD technology you can even talk and send data at the same time over the same phone line.
- Fax/data, voice and Internet software (Windows® 95 and 98).
- USB & phone cable.
- Modem is powered by USB - no need for bulky power pack!
- WinFax Pro 8.0 including Talkworks voice messaging software.

HOT NEW PRODUCT



$299 (63379)

NetComm Modems



Voice (19242) **$169**

Card Modem 56 KFlex (52694)

$387

CardCombo 33.6 Modem Ethernet

(37569) **$466**

DUO CONNECT
PC CARD Modem & Ethernet

Windows® 98 compatible

The NetComm DuoConnect is the ultimate Modem and Ethernet connectivity suite for laptop users.
Utilising the new CardLAN 10/100 and the popular CardModem 56, the NetComm DuoConnect gives you unequalled network performance and compatibility as well as the fastest 56K modem technology in a suite that is designed to work together, both now and in the future.
Confusing "multi-function" drivers are a thing of the past, as the DuoConnect utilises proven and well supported drivers, with a full Plug and Play installation, making it both versatile and easy to install.

- Unequalled network performance
- Fast connections everytime using 10Mbps and 100Mbps Support
- Easy to Setup and Install with Plug and Play
- Extensive Network Support
- High speed data up to 56,000 bps
- Transmit and receive faxes from your laptop
- Digital Line Protection
- Powered by Rockwell. ITU-T V.90 K56flex

DESIGNED FOR WINDOWS® 98

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Line Isolation Module
Connects PC card directly to a standard phone line
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Internal 56k KFlex Data/ Fax
Compression V.42. Uses new KFlex technology
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(47504)

Accura 56k KFlex Speakerphone Internal
High Performance Modem, 56K, Compression V.42. Internal modem,Smart-com Message Centre soft-ware, built in microphone, fax on demand
$252
(47502)

Optima9V Power Supply
for Hayes modems
$101
(20265)

Optima 14V Power Supply
for Hayes modems
$111
(20264)

Hayes Optima 56K PC Card

NEWLY RELEASED VERSION

Hayes credit card sized OPTIMA 56K PC Card modems offer the ultimate in portability, reliability and speed for laptop computer users. Receive files at download speeds up to 56K. Transfer files up to 115,200 bits/s, over a megabyte a minute.

$532 (57493)

Features:
- An onboard optimized UART allows for maximum throughput during high-speed transmissions
- Hot Swapping allows users to insert and remove the modem without having to reboot
- Flash upgradeable to V.90 standards
- **Global GSM**
- Credit Card "bong" tone detection

Why settle for anything less?

Hayes Accura 56K

K56flex technology with 56K download speeds • Simple installation with Windows compatibility • Maximum data throughput with V.42bis com-pression • Fax capabilities @ 14,400bps • Automatic data/ fax discrimination • Internal speaker

(47503) **$210**

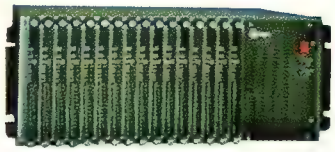
Speakerphone

(48637) **$264**

- 56,000bps modem speed
- 14,400bps fax & fax on demand capabilities
- Error correction & data compression capabilities
- Full duplex speakerphone & digital voice mail
- Automatic data/fax discrimination

Hayes Century MR200

Features: analog or digital 33.6K modems, digital 56K modems, dual TI, TI/PRI or EI/PR cards, flexible and adaptable. Mix & match analog & digital modem cards in single chassis. Low profile chassis fits into a standard 19" rack or desktop placement. Hot swap feature allows instant swap of line cards without powering down chassis. Transmission versatility with asynchronous, Dial-up, or leased line (2-wire). Convenient, internal power supply with redundant power supply available.



(53628) Quad Modem Card **$1,778**

(53629) Chassis **$1,528**

Hayes Optima GSM PC card

The ULTIMATE in global portability and reliability for laptop users

- Fully approved for use in over 20 countries
- 33,600 bps, V.34bis
- 2Mb Flash memory
- Data/fax comms software
- Phone cable

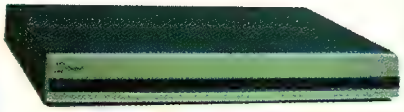
Great Value!

(48635) **$477**

Hayes Century 2000

A high performance entry level durable remote access server.

- 4, 8 or 16 ports
- Easily installed and used
- Run applications on local PCs from remote locations. Network users can share a modem pool to access BBS and on-line services.



From **$2,279** (53631) (4 ports)

Hayes Accura Ethernet

(48019) **$460**

- Super 33,600bps
- Send and receive data and faxes on one multi function PC card
- Plug-n-Play ease, PC card convenience, support and compatibility with networks
- Increased reliability & throughput with V.42bis & MNP5 data compression.

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Data Fax Modems & Ethernet Cards

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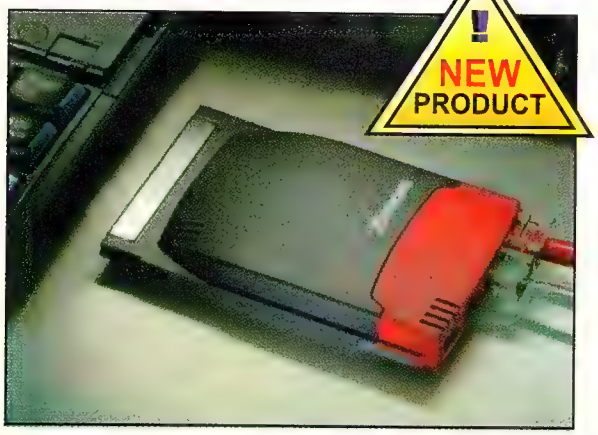


Xircom RealPort Ethernet 10/100 + Modem 56

The integrated PC Card: nothing to break, nothing to lose

The first 16-bit integrated PC card with built-in connector system. It has all the features you need to connect to information in the office or on the road, anywhere in the world. One PC Card- no custom cables to lose, no pop-out jacks to snap and leave you stranded. All you need are standard Ethernet and telephone connectors, and you're ready to access information anytime, anywhere.

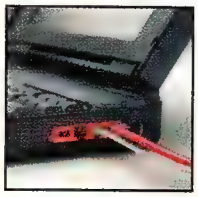
Communication via your notebook PC has never been so robust, reliable or easy to use!

(61795) **$719**

- Integrated Connectors: Ethernet Connector RJ-45, Modem Connector RJ-11, Telephone Pass-thru RJ-11, GSM upgradable
- Supports both 10Base-T and 100Base-TX networks and modem speeds up to 56Kbps
- Flash ROM-upgradable to future 56K ITU standard (V.90) at no charge

1. Slide into PC Card slot

2. Plug in standard LAN & phone connectors



3. Ready to access information in the office or on the road

All these products are:

Windows® 98 Compatible

Microsoft™ Windows NT™ Compatible

Designed for Microsoft® Windows® 95

CreditCard 56K modem

Flash ROM upgradeable. Robust, high speed connections. Global Access for WorldWide use. Internationally approved Country-Select™ for easy modem setup worldwide. Digital Shield™ protects against high current lines

(54763) **$429**

CreditCard 10/100 Upgradable

10 Mbps Ethernet PC Card. 100 Mbps upgradable, simply with the addition of a new adapter cable. Full suite of drivers including Windows® 3.x, 95 and NT.

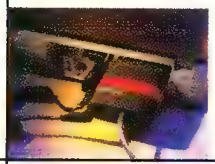
(27310) From **$255** UTP

100Mbps Upgr. Kit: (27312) **$194**

10Mbps Pocket Ethernet

Supported by Windows® 95 and NT for immediate "plug-and-play". Supports Enhanced Parallel Port operation for increased performance. Phantom Power Cable eliminates the need for an AC Adapter.

(10257) From **$569** Coax



Creditcard 10/100BTX Ethernet + 56K modem

10/100Mbps Auto sensing Ethernet Full duplex operation, sends and receives simultaneously on 10Mbps duplex networks. GSM upgradable. Digital Shield™ protection. Includes MiniDock.

$653

(56359)

CardBus 10/100 Ethernet

Delivers 32-bit PCI performance in a CardBus. Auto negotiation of 10 or 100Mbps connections. Full suite of drivers including Windows® 3.x, 95 and NT.

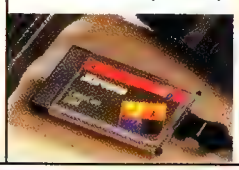
(38605) **$328**

NOTE: Requires CardBus compliant PC. (Please ask)

Credit Card GSM Modem

Get connected using your mobile GSM phone at up to 9600bps. Short Message Service allows users to transmit 160 character messages on their notebook.

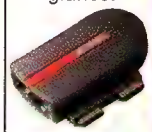
(55026) **$469**



(55838)

MiniDock™ Connector System

Combines both LAN and modem connectors in a single, durable device, enabling you to connect easily and reliably when accessing data from corporate networks, the Internet and other online services. It also features convenient LEDs displaying modem and network status information at a glance.



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The **CableKeeper Ring** allows you to hook cables out of the way, eliminating the confusing mess of cables associated with networking products.

You can buy on the Web, from your home or office. You can find more than 30.000 items, make your own "quotes", and even "build" your own configs!

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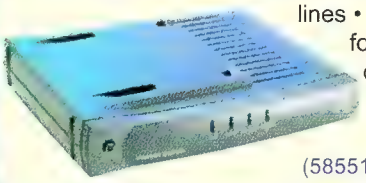
www.ht.com.au

Intel InBusiness™ Internet Station

• Multiple user Internet Access over a single line • Simple web-browser configuration and management • InstantIP™ technology saves time and money on Internet addresses • Supports both analog and ISDN lines • Two additional ports for "dial out" and "fax out"

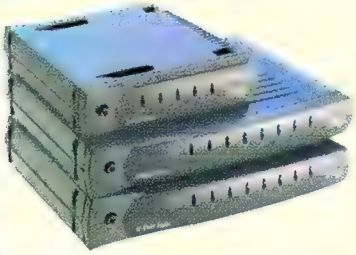


Internet Station: (58551)

$785

Intel InBusiness™ 5- and 8-Port Hubs

• Easily connects devices to create a 10BASE-T Ethernet network or workgroup • Simple installation, no software required • Special "crossover" port for easy network expansion • Optional coax connector on 8-port version • Limited lifetime warranty



5-port 10mbps hub: (58547)

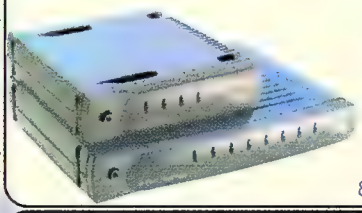
$145

8-port 10mbps hub: (58548)

$189

Intel InBusiness™ 4- and 8-Port Fast Hubs

• Easily connects devices to create a Fast Ethernet network • Simple installation, no software required • Special "crossover" port for easy network expansion • Limited lifetime warranty



100Base-T 8-port hub: (57827)

$780

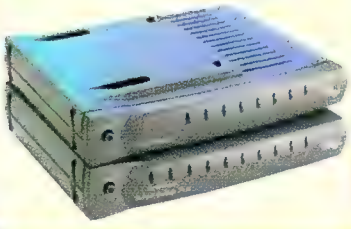
100Base 4-port hub: (58546)

$395

Also Available in 8 + 10/100 port....$949

Intel InBusiness™ 8-Port Switch and Switch Plus

• 10 BASE-T high-performance desktop switch • Simple installation, no software required • Special "crossover" port for easy network expansion • Switch Plus includes two additional 10/100 ports for connection to high speed LAN or server • Limited lifetime warranty



8-port 10mbps switch: (58552)

$995

8-port 10mbps switch + 2x 10/100 ports: (58553)

$1,439

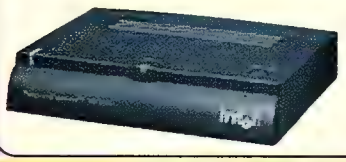
Intel NetportExpress™ 10/100 Print Server

The Netport Express 10/100 Print Server delivers outstanding performance, anticipating tomorrow's needs by exceeding the demands of today.

• Reliability and performance through Intel® processor technology

• Save time with easy setup and management

• Compatible with virtually any printer and NOS for exceptional flexibility



(63213)

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or the super saver 3 pack for only (31948)

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Feel the need for SPEED?

Dual Speed Hubs

NETGEAR'S new range of Dual speed hubs makes moving to 100 Mbps an easy decision. Each port is speed sensing and supports either 10Mbps or 100 Mbps meaning that you can move your power users or servers to high speeds immediately whilst still maintaining your installed 10Mbps devices. The 5 series support stacking of up to 8 units for a total of 128 users.

Entry Level 8 Port Dual Speed (10/100) Hub

(18755) **$777**

The DS108 has eight 10/100 ports and is supplied in a slimline form factor with an external power supply. It supports an uplink port for easy expansion and features Vista LED's in the RJ45 Jacks for easy installation and trouble shooting.

Dual Speed 10Mbps / 100Mbps Hubs

(18738) **$968** (18747) **$1,610**

The DS508 / 8 port and the DS516 / 16 port hubs can be stacked to a maximum of eight units with the supplied stacking cables. They come with an internal power supply and can be fitted into a standard 19" rack. Brackets supplied.

NETGEAR offers a comprehensive range of unmanaged hubs and switches that are easy to install, easy to use and offer Toll Free 1800 support – 7 days per week, 24 hours per day.

10Mbps Ethernet Hubs

(53456)	EN104TP	4 port, slimline, 10baseT	$ 89
(53455)	EN104	4 port, slimline, 10baseT, BNC	$ 119
(53458)	EN108TP	8 port, slimline, 10baseT	$ 143
(53457)	EN108	8 port, slimline, 10baseT, BNC, AUI	$ 185
(17412)	EN308	8 port ,internal PSU, BNC, AUI	$ 208
(53459)	EN116	16 port, slimline, 10baseT, BNC, AUI	$ 283
(17425)	EN516	16 port, rackmount, 10BT, BNC, AUI	$ 408
(17435)	EN524	24 port, rackmount, 10BT, BNC, AUI	$ 488

100Mbps Fast Ethernet Hubs

(48831)	FE104	4 port, slimline, Uplink port	$ 221
(53461)	FE108	8 port, slimline, Uplink port	$ 424
(48833)	FE508	8 port, rackmount, stackable	$ 887
(53463)	FE516	16 port, rackmount, stackable	$1,610

Netgear Network Cards

(58728) EA201 10Mbps ISA + 10ft cable (NE2000 compatible) **$41**

(53460) FA310 10/100 PCI (Speed sensing, plug & play) **$98**

(60071) FA410 10/100 PC MCIA (Speed sensing, plug & play) **$246**

NEW!

Netgear Starter Pack

$221

(13277)

The ideal network starter kit for Pentium PC's. Comes complete with two 10/100 NIC's, a 4 port hub, two cat 5 cables and a network starter guide.

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Switches

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4 port 10/100 switch
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(55171)

FS508
8 port 10/100 switch
$1,698
(58009)

FS516
16 port 10/100 switch
$2,650
(60522)

SW518
two x 10/100, sixteen x 10 switch
$1,610
(48835)

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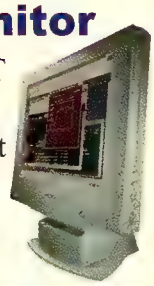
Philips B201P 21" With USB and Multi-media Audio options **$2,550** (45876)

15.1" Brilliance Colour LCD Monitor



The Philips AX B151AX is a brand new 15.1" Active TFT LCD, one of the first LCD monitors with USB option. Wide 160° viewing angle technolgy. Flicker free display at any input frequencies up to 75 Hz in 1024 x 768 mode

COMING LATE AUGUST!

$Call

Using the optional Universal Serial Bus (USB) gives you: 1 x Upstream port to the PC, 4 x Downstream ports to peripherals, A hub function, Self-power bus & digital communication speeds up to 12Mbs. Windows® 98 Compatible. Comes with Costomax 3.0 software allowing manipulation of geometry and colour.

(58849) **$139**

USB Compatible for Win 98™

B 109 19"

The B109 is a brand new 19" monitor that introduces a dazzling array of innovations and new technologies, with a footprint roughly comparable to a 17" CRT, but with a VIS rivalling many 20" models. Philips proprietary CrystalClear technology combines sophisticated electronics with a high contrast CRT coating to optimise brightness and clarity for razor sharp images.

(58542) **$1,650**

B107 17" Colour Monitor

- 17" (15.9 VIS)
- DDCI/2B allows for bi-directional communication for optimal video config.
- Power management and low-emmission
- Flicker free display with high refresh rates up to 100Hz in 1024 x 768 mode
- High resolution 0.22 horizontal dot pitch

USB Optional

(38901) **$1,140**

Super Value

105 MB 15" Colour Monitor

$488 (58543)

The 105MB is a Value Monitor, ideal for general use in corporate and home office environments where value and performance are prime considerations. Even the most price conscious consumer will be completely satisfied with its remarkable cost to performance ratio, Features and Benefits.

Three Year On-Site* Warranty

Philips Australia provides a three year parts and labour on-site* warranty to the original purchaser. A loan monitor will be provided to the customer while the original is being repaired.

* On-site is available within a 50 Km radius of a Philips accredited service centre. (See our Web-direct for a list). All other areas covered by a 3 year return to depot parts and labour warranty.

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HITACHI

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Web Direct www.ht.com.au/cat/hitachi

The one to watch !

THIS IS HOT!

HITACHI CM630

An excellent choice if you are looking for outstanding image quality, full digital control, low emissions and exceptional ergonomics.

Whether it's DTP or word processing, database or spreadsheets, the popular size in monitors is 17 inches, a screen large enough to appreciate "the whole picture" without sacrificing too much desk space.

- Resolution 1280 x1024 @ 80Hz
- On screen display control
- 0.22mm dot pitch
- Plug & Play
- Digital control
- Power-saving features
- Full geometry adjustment
- 42 presets

17" (52719) **$1,228**

HITACHI CM620

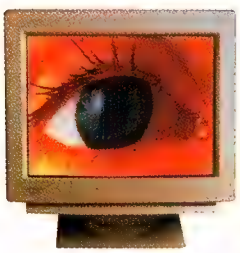
Advanced, flat square, black matrix CRT with Invar shadow mask and high-contrast, anti-glare, anti-static coating screen with digital control features.

- 0.28 mm dot pitch
- Max resolution & refresh 1360 x 1024 @ 60 Hz
- Autosynchronization range of 30-64 KHz, 47-104 Hz
- Video clock frequency of 100 MHz
- Low ELF and VLF emissions. Meets MPR II standards.
- Windows® 95 plug and play
- 16.1" W x 15.8" H x 16.8" D (37 lbs.) incl. detachable tilt/swivel base.
- 3 year limited warranty covers parts and labor including CRT.

17" (55536)

$1,075

CM751 19"



Hitachi offers the budget-conscious CAD and DTP users the high-quality 19" monitor. A high-refresh, high-resolution monitor for the professional who needs the BEST.

(55537)

$2,140

- Res. 1600x1200 @75Hz
- 0.22mm dot pitch
- Plug & Play
- RGB colour control system
- Power-saving features
- Low radiation (MPR-II)
- On-screen display for all adjustments

13.3" Super TFT

An easy-to-use PC/workstation monitor featuring a 13.3-inch thin-film transistor (TFT) liquid-crystal display (LCD) screen with a new, wide-viewing-angle super TFT technology.

- 16.19 million colors
- 140-degree wide viewing angle Space saving design
- External dimensions (W)14.37 x (H)12.40 x (D)7.83 inch.
- Light weight design at 13.2 lbs.
- Plug & Play compatible, DDC1/2B

$3,799 (45210)

Great Value

Hitachi DVD-Rom Drive

Bare OEM Drive with IDE/ATAPI interface, compatible with all CD formats.

(54603)

$279

Hitachi CM-801 21 inch monitor

CRT 1600 x 1200dpi @ 76Hz Nobody delivers a finer dot pitch, displays more pixels, delivers a sharper more accurate display.

(45192)

$2,859

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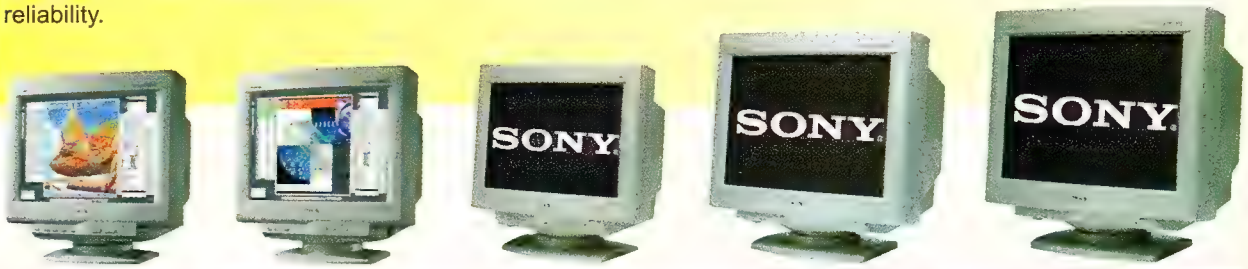
Displays, Camera & Accessories

The **ES series** of displays is designed for users who require exceptional quality and reliability at an affordable price. Ideal for the home, small office or entry level corporate user.
For the demanding corporate user, who is looking for superior image performance, Sony designed the **GS series**. Designed for the demanding graphic professional, the **PS series** sets a new level of image performance and reliability.



Monitors	200ES	200GS	200PS	400PS	500PS
Our part number	(58205) See it in our Showroom	(58798)	(57450)	(57451) See it in our Showroom	(58544)
CRT Size	17" Trinitron® CRT	17" Trinitron® CRT	17" Trinitron® CRT	19" Trinitron® CRT	21" Trinitron® CRT
Viewable Image Size	16.0"	16.0"	16.0"	18.0"	19.8"
Maximum Resolution	1280x1024 @60Hz	1280x1024 @75Hz	1600x1200 @70Hz	1600x1200 @ 75Hz	1600x1200 @ 85Hz
Vertical Scan Range	50-120Hz	50-120Hz	48-160Hz	48-160Hz	46-160Hz
Horizontal Scan Range	30-70kHz	30-85kHz	30-92kHz	30-94kHz	30-107kHz
Price	**$1,255**	**$1,399**	**$1,959**	**$2,350**	**$3,999**

Please call or see our Web Direct for more information on these and other Sony monitors.

Sony Digital Mavica MVC-FD71

3.5" Floppy Disk Digital Camera

NEW PRODUCT

Now with 2X floppy drive for faster recording

- **Intelligent flash**
- **Additional recording formats**
- **Multi screen display**

(63718)

$1,599

Loaded with great new features:

- New exclusive technology developed by Sony allows for double the speed when recording or playing back images. Sony's new floppy drive is the fastest drive available: it takes only 4 seconds to write the file. No connecting wires or interfaces, just insert into a PC's floppy drive, up to 40 images stored per disc.
- 640 x480 pixel, 24 bit colour (VGA)
- Allows shots from as close as one inch to the subject.
- New focus ring for a more accurate, professional picture
- Multi-screen mode: takes 9 images in just 2 seconds to capture all the actions
- E-mail mode: reduces the size of files to the standard file 320x240 for fast Internet downloads
- Four pre-programmed special effects
- Better results when shooting under difficult light conditions

DAT Tapes

4mm x 60M 1.3Gb
$15
(06102)

4mm x 90M 2Gb
$15
(06103)

4mm x 120M 4Gb
$34
(13262)

Tapes are also available as 5 packs

4mm x 90M 2Gb - 5 Pk
$53
(54085)

4mm x120M 4Gb - 5 Pk
$125
(24968)

5¼ "MO 600Mb up to 1.3Gb
$78
(30916)

2.3 / 2.6Mb MO
$119
(30936/30937)

It's a Sony

"World leaders in Computer Media." A bold statement? Not when you know that Sony invented things like the Micro floppy disc system, the original D8 Data cartridges and Data Grade 4mm tape, and recently, QC-Wide Data Cartridge technology. Indeed, Sony offers such a complete range of innovative Data Media storage solutions, you'll find room for practically anything.

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LASER PRINTERS

NEW PRODUCT

EPL-5700 Laser

Networkable, speedy Laser printing with MicroGray 1200. 8 Page per minute print speed and 600 dpi resolution

- Standard Bi-directional Parallel interface
- 31 scalable fonts
- 150 Sheet standard paper tray
- 600 dpi resolution
- Optional 500 sheet lower paper cassette
- 8 ppm print speed
- PCL5e, EPSON GL/2
- 4.0 Mbytes memory, expandable to 36 Mbytes by EDO Ram
- 12 months return to base warranty
- Toner save mode

$895

EPL-N1200 Laser

$1,698
(38000)

Networkable, multi-system environment laser page printer

- 12ppm print speed
- 600dpi resolution
- BiResolution Improvement Technology (BiRI Tech)
- 22.5Mhz SPARClite RISC processor
- 45 scalable fonts
- 250 sheet adjustable input tray
- PCL5e, EPSON GL/2
- 2.0 Mbyte memory, expandable to 64 Mbytes using SIMMs
- High speed bi-directional parallel
- Toner save mode
- 3 year warranty upgrade option extends the on-site warranty period to 3 years in total

EPL-N2000 Laser

$3,295
(37998)

20ppm Network, multi-system environment laser printer

- 20 ppm print speed
- 600 dpi resolution
- BiResolution Improvement Technology (BiRI Tech)
- EPSON Microgray Technology (EMGT)
- 50Mhz SPARClite RISC Processor
- 45 Scalable Fonts
- 650 Sheets (standard paper feeder)
- 4.0 Mbyte memory, expandable to 68 Mbytes using SIMMs
- Built-in network interface card
- High speed bi-directional parallel
- Toner save mode

Toner N2000
$370
(40789)

Toner EPL1200
$299
(58026)

Toner EPL5200
$290
(11088)

Toner EPL3000
$219
(18343)

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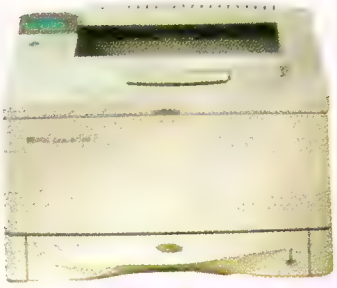
HP Laser Printers

HP Color LaserJet 5

(25080)
$7,273
10ppm mono, 2ppm colour. EPCI 5-colour. Media size: A4/letter for colour and up to A3 mono

NEW PRODUCT HP LaserJet 5000

• 16-page-per-minute engine and 100-MHz RISC processor for faster printing • HP PCL 6 and PostScript Level 2 emulation ensure compatibility • 1200DPI • 250-sheet input tray • 4MB RAM (expandable to 100MB) • Print size up to 11x17inch



Lower cost of ownership

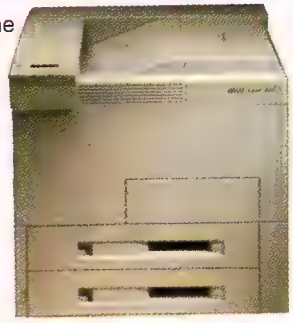
(60548) **$2,990**

JetDirect, **8MB** RAM	(60549)	**$4,145**
JetDirect, **12MB** RAM	(60550)	**$5,250**

NEW PRODUCT HP LaserJet 8000

Hassle-free network printing

• 24-page-per-minute engine and 133-MHz RISC processor • HP PCL 6 and PostScript Level 2 emulation to ensure compatibility • Faster multiple original printing, reduced network traffic and faster return-to-application times • 1200DPI • Ability to print and duplex up to 11 x 17 inches • 2 x 500-sheet input tray • 16MB RAM (expandable to 192MB)



(60551) **$4,780**

JetDirect, **16MB** RAM	(60552)	**$5,280**
Duplex JetDirect, **24MB** RAM	(60553)	**$6,109**

The HP 6L & 6P, range of LaserJet printers come with 4 software programs to harness the power of the Internet, a large library of business templates to create professional documents in a flash and Avery LabelPro 3.0 for professional looking labels, business cards etc.

HP LaserJet 6L

The personal laser printer for business users.

Offers a fast 6 page-per-minute print speed, superior flexibility, optional network capability, and HP's proven laser technology for reliable performance year after year.

(42740) **$672**

HP LaserJet 6P

Low cost per page

Great looking documents, enhanced productivity, and room to grow.

High-resolution laser print quality, versatile paper handling and 8 page-per-minute print speed driven by a fast processor. Expandability and attractive pricing. What you get is the HP LaserJet 6P printer, delivering outstanding value for individual or shared use.

$1,693

(54041)

HP LaserJet 4000 Series

• 16ppm engine and 100MHz RISC processor for fast printing • HP PCL6 & PostScript level 2 • 600 sheet standard input capacity reduces restocking • 4Mb RAM with Memory Enhancement Technology • New 10.000 page HP Ultra Precise toner cartridge reduces the cost of output • 1200 dpi quality • Warm up time less than 15 seconds with instant on-fuser.

From **$2,242**

IDEAL FOR THE OFFICE

(54375)

HP DeskJet Printers

DeskJet 670C
600dpi, 4 ppm mono, 1.5 ppm colour
$245
(43013)

DeskJet 890C
600dpi, 9 ppm mono, 2 ppm colour
$775
(53932)

⇨ ⇨ ⇨ **Have a look at the WebLink (see top of this page) for more HP Printers!** ⇦ ⇦ ⇦

HP DeskJet 720C

(56299)

$504

Brilliant photo-quality colour and crisp black text on any paper

Features HP's exclusive HP PHOTO Ret II, delivering smaller ink drops and more colour shades. Fast printing of up to 8 pages per minute in black an 4 pages per minute in colour. Up to 600 dpi. Prints on a variety of papers including plain and premium papers, transparencies, envelopes, cards, labels, banners, special photo papers and iron-on transfers.

HP DeskJet 1120

(56298)

$895 Prints A3 size

Ideal for: A3 posters, double-sided flyers, newsletters, brochures and booklets

Wide format printer with PHOTO Ret II. Up to 600 dpi. Billboard printing lets you create extra large posters (1.2m high). New Smart Software Features including HP Zoom-smart for image rescaling A6-A3. 6.5 ppm black, 4.5 ppm colour. 3000 page duty cycle. Built-in print sample (A4). Includes Corel Print and Photo House software.

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The HP "All-in-One" Series

All in One

NEW!

HP OfficeJet Pro 1170C Series

The new OfficeJet 1170C Series is the latest, easy to use All-in-One that provides professional quality and performance for the discerning customer. Print, copy, scan, all in colour! The versatile flatbed of the OfficeJet Pro 1170C Series lets you easily scan and copy a wide variety of documents, pictures, books and other objects.The 1175C model even includes integrated PC faxing and has an automatic document feeder to make scanning a multiple page document a breeze.

Printer: 600x600dpi, 9ppm mono, 5ppm colour. **Copier:** 9cpm mono, 3cpm colour. 25-400% scaling. Up to 50 copies of original. **Scanner:** 30 bit internal, 300dpi optical / 1200dpi enhanced.

Features PhotoREt II

From (63098) **$1,450**

HP LaserJet 3100

Printer • Fax • Copier • Scanner

An "All-in-One" device that offers laser printing, business faxing, quality copying, monochrome scanning, and a software suite that includes an easy-to-use desktop interface, PC Fax and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) applications.

Printer: 600x600dpi, 6ppm,1x 100sht paper input bin. **Fax:** 6 seconds per page, 175 programmable speed dials, standard, fine & superfine fax resolution. Scanhead fax allows for multitasking. Includes 2Mb of memory standard. **Scanner/Copier:** 600dpi enhanced scanning resolution with 256 grey levels, scans up to 6ppm, copies up to 6ppm, reduce to 50%, enlarge to 200%.

(58566)

$1,399

HP Warranty

The One-Year HP Express Service warranty is for the **OfficeJet 590 and 635** only. It minimizes your down time if anything breaks on the OfficeJet Pro. It's designed to keep you productive and give you peace of mind. It includes:

- Free parts, labour and freight
- Free on-site pick-up and drop-off
- HP pays for the fastest shipping feasible within your area

(Warranty for the OfficeJet Pro 1170C Series & LaserJet 3100 is 1 year, parts and labour, return to Hewlett-Packard)

HP OfficeJet 635

Colour printer • Colour copier • Colour scanner • Fax

Printer: 600x600dpi / 5ppm black, 600x300dpi / 2ppm colour. **Fax**: Plain paper & PC, 100 speed dials, 65 page memory, 14.4Kbps. Auto fax/answering machine switching. **Copier**: 600x300dpi colour* and B&W, up to 99 copies at a time. Digital zoom from 50% to 200%*, up to 1200 dpi enhanced (300 dpi optical).

*when using HP OfficeJet Document Assistant software

$990 (55544)

HP OfficeJet 590

Colour printer • Fax • Copier • Scanner

Printer: Produces vibrant colour graphics and images with 600x300dpi resolution and professional 600x600dpi black text. 4ppm mono, 1ppm colour. **Fax:** Plain paper & PC. 100 speed dials. 65 page memory. 10 sec. per page. **Copier:** Produces clear, crisp copies. 600x300dpi text, 300x300dpi images. Digital zoom 50-200%. Up to 99 copies at a time. **Scanner:** 600dpi enhanced, 300dpi optical. Includes OCR software.

(50788)

$765

See it in our Showroom

Hewlett Packard ink

for OfficeJet 590

Black: (21919) **$55**

Colour: (22331) **$54**

for OfficeJet Pro

Black: (22643) **$58**

Colour: (22773) **$63**

Premium InkJet Paper 200sheets

$41 (10468)

Premium Transparency Film 50 / pack

$79 (28130)

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Inks

BC03 Black Cartridge BJC210SP
$47
(53237)

BC22KIT Photo Realistic Starter Kit for BJC4200/ 4550
$99
(31920)

BC22 Photo Colour Ink Cartridge for BJC4200/ 4550
$83
(31921)

BC29F Fluorescent Ink Cartridge for BJC4200/ 4550
$83
(51793)

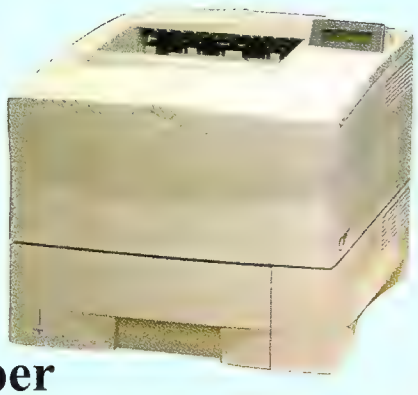
Canon BJC5500 Optional Cut Sheet Feeder
$227
(52916)

See Web Direct for more

You *can* on a Canon, can do!

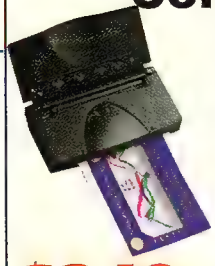
LBP-1760 Laser Printer

- PCL6 Printer language
- 4MB memory standard
- 500 Sheet Paper cassette
- Up to 17 Pages per minute
- up to 1200dpi print resolution



$2452
(63563)

BJC-80 Portable Colour Printer



* Extremely compact. Small enough to fit into a half brief case.
* Built in IrDA infrared port
* Optional battery kit
* up to 720dpi
* Swappable scanner head reads up to 360dpi 128 mono-chrome levels for OCR and 64 colour levels for RGB

$349
(52258)

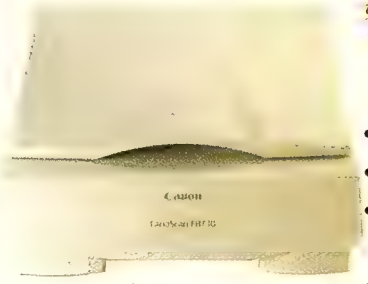
BJC-50 $619
Now Smaller and includes a Built in Battery (63560)

JUST RELEASED!

Canoscan FB610

Colour Flatbed Scanner

Great Value!

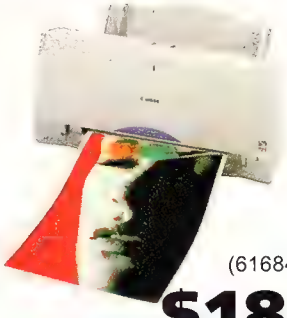


- 600x1200 DPI
- A4/Letter max size
- 30-bit input, 24-bit output
- OmniPage LE OCR software

$367
(60046)

BJC-255 *SP* Colour BubbleJet Printer

- Gold standard photographic printing with optional Photo-Realism inks
- 360DPI
- Super Economy Mode cuts costs
- Up to 3.4 ppm B&W
- Optimises low resolution Internet images



(61684)

$187

PHOTO REALISTIC CAPABLE

Powershot A5

NEW PRODUCT!

- High resolution, 810,000 pixel CCD Sensor
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- High speed auto focus, accurate exposure, flexible flash control, high speed shutter
- 5 Resolution modes
- High performace aspherical lens elements

AWARD WINNING! Digital Camera
(63129)

$1175

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Latest Laser Models

NEW!

Lexmark Optra S Laser Printer

A high speed, performance set of printers, with processing power to suit most requirements for desktop, workgroup and departmental printing. Lexmark continues to offer the most flexible printing solutions available today, with industry leading connectivity.
Please call and ask about the options and pricing for the new Optra S Series of printers.

Part #	Model	Speed	Processor	Memory	Size	Duty cycle	Price
(60532)	S 1255	12 ppm	32 bit 67MHz	4Mb*	18.6Kg	35000 pg/mth	$1,899
(60541)	S 1625	16 ppm	32 bit 100MHz	4Mb*	18.6Kg	65000 pg/mth	$2,069
(60547)	S 1855	18 ppm	32 bit 133MHz	4Mb**	19.1Kg	65000 pg/mth	$2,299
(60554)	S 2455	24 ppm	32 bit 133MHz	8Mb***	26.4Kg	100,000 pg/mth	$4,086

* Memory is expandable to 68Mb ** Memory is expandable to 132Mb *** Memory is expandable to 136Mb

Lexmark 7200

(55005)

$547

Lexmark CJ1000

(52310)

$172

Lexmark CJ5700

(57459)

$534

Lexmark CJ5000

(57458)

$414

More from Lexmark

250 sheet feeder
for Optra SC 1275.
$681
(45065)

Toner
for Optra SC 1275.
Black:
$126
(45066)
C,M or Y:
$117
(45067/ 45068/45069)

Lexmark Photokit
For 2030 & 2050 colour Jetprinter.
$88
(47016)

Laser Toner
Diamond fine toner cartridge for Optra & 4039. 7000 pages.
$332
(25025)

Toner cartridge for Optra R, R+, Rx, Lx+, Lxi+, L, Lx, Lxi, optra Plus and 4039. 14000 pages.
$410
(25026)

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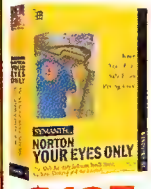
(39576)

Symantec Cafe 1.8
$96
(48841)

Visual Cafe 2.5 for Java dbDE
NEWLY RELEASED VERSION
$1,122
(62576)

Visual Cafe 2.5 for Java PDE
NEWLY RELEASED VERSION
$455
(60631)

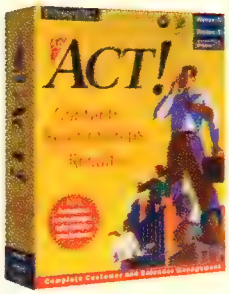
Norton Your Eyes Only 4.1



$137
(63558)

The Ultimate Business Bundle

(58206) **$136**



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Bundle:
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Save $52!!

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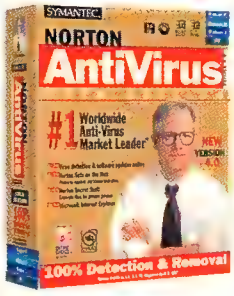
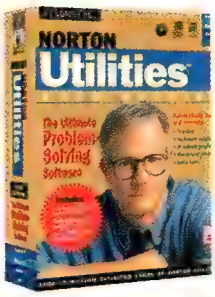
Nobody knows your customers better than you do. The trick is remembering the right things about them at precisely the right time. ACT! Puts the information you need within easy reach - phone numbers, addresses, order history, invoice numbers even personal details. Now you're completely prepared!

Hassle-free faxing, anywhere, anytime. It's easier, faster, and smarter. Why waste time printing out documents and feeding a fax machine? Fax right from your computer!



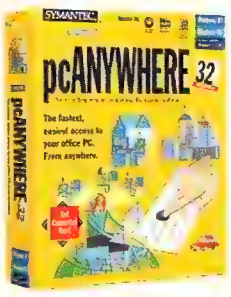
Norton AntiVirus 4.0 Gold Edition
(54109)
$79

Eliminates viruses from networks, floppy disks, hard disks, email attachments, CD-ROMs.
Gives **ultimate Internet protection** during file downloads & transfers, and proactively blocks hackers and destructive ActiveX and Java applets from entering your computer.



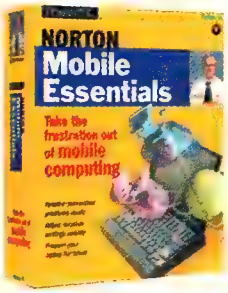
Norton Utilities Gold Edition
(55021)
$99

Gives computer users, on all platforms, unrivaled control and problem-solving power, making your computer more efficient and data more secure. Provides industry leading crash protection, background problem solving, optimises system performance, virus repair, and online updates.



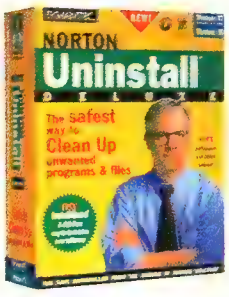
pc ANY-WHERE
Version 8.0
(52653)
$184

Remotely access your office computer or network from anywhere in the world over the Internet, then work just as if you were there. You can use office-based applications and files, check your e-mail, even print to your office printer. It automatically synchronises files between two computers, so you are always up-to-date!



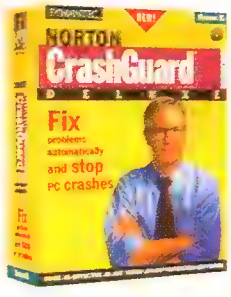
Norton Mobile Essentials
(61870)
$127

Helps you prepare for a trip, adjust to new locations, and resolve communication problems quickly.
Locates the source of communication problems when connecting to e-mail, the Internet, fax, etc. Adjusts your computer settings automatically to your new location. Provides information about your city/ country of destination etc.



Norton Uninstall Deluxe
(54583)
$56

Safely removes programs & files you no longer need. Moves, copies & stores programs and files without error. Also protects your system when installing new programs. Automatically cleans up your hard drive when you boot your PC and maintains your custom settings and preferences when copying or moving programs.



Norton Crash-Guard Deluxe 3.0
(54584)
$72

Provides three times the crash protection of any other product. Protects against PC crashes and screen freezes. It works behind the scenes to detect & repair problems before they become serious, providing the best crash protection, problem-solving capabilities, and software up-dates to ensure your computer runs smoothly.

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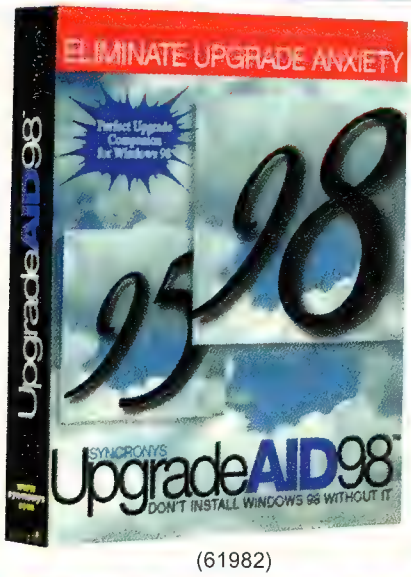
Upgrade to Windows® 98 safely



(61982)

Added peace of mind

For Only **$37**

Upgrade AID 98®

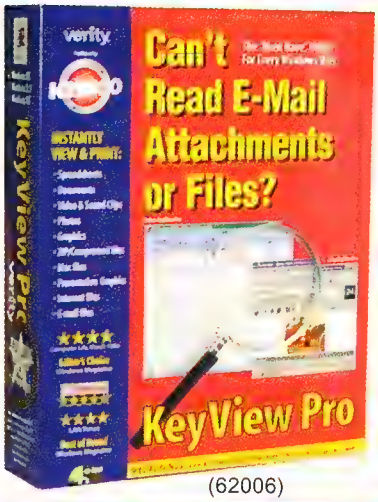
Upgrade AID 98 is the ideal product for Windows® 95 users who wish to take the plunge into Windows® 98, but who are reluctant to do so due to the upgrade writing over the top of their current Windows® Operating System.

Upgrade AID is a product designed to enable users to run both Windows® 95 and Windows® 98 on the same hard drive without having to uninstall the earlier version until they are completely satisfied with the Windows® 98 environment.

With this new utility, users can easily install the Windows® 98 Upgrade while retaining the option to switch between Windows® 95 and 98 at the push of a button. In addition, users can continue to use all of their applications on both systems without reinstalling.

Upgrade AID 98 is installed before the Windows® 98 upgrade. An intuitive upgrade wizard steps through the entire Windows® 98 Upgrade process, automatically preserving the Windows® 95 configuration data and system components. Users can then use a simple, fully graphical boot manager to select between Windows® 98 or Windows® 95.

Say goodbye to unreadable files!!!



(62006)

Great utility software

For Only **$60**

KeyView Pro

Frustrated with not being able to read or use E-mail attachments and Internet files like multimedia, graphics, spreadsheets, and compressed or encoded documents? Then install KeyView Pro, the ultimate desktop, E-mail and Internet utility.

Windows® users can save hours by viewing and printing almost any file type without opening – or even having – the original application!

A Boost for Navigator or Explorer Users! Nothing is more annoying than surfing the Internet and not being able to read those Internet files. KeyView Pro is a plug-in for both Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer, allowing you to view, print, copy, manage, and compress files, right from your browser!

You'll never have to pause your web surfing. KeyView Pro automatically launches whenever the Internet throws you a curve. You don't have to leave your browser. Reads files from both the PC platform and the MAC, easily converts documents to HTML and includes Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.0

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The products on this page are Windows® 98 compatible

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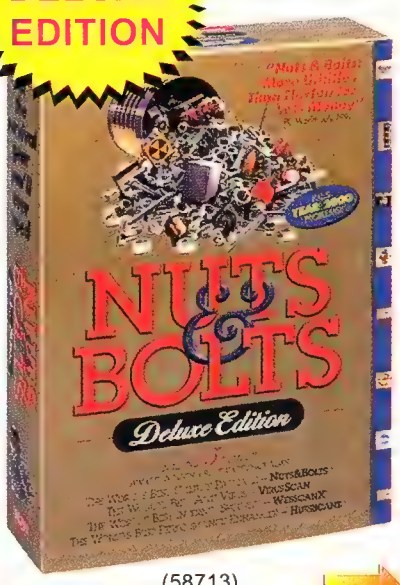


(58713)

Nuts & Bolts Deluxe keeps PC's running smoothly and efficiently

A total, comprehensive, all-inclusive, brilliant bundle of utilities to enhance your system, protect your data, prevent crashes and viruses, and come to the rescue - before, during and after any problem.

Includes:

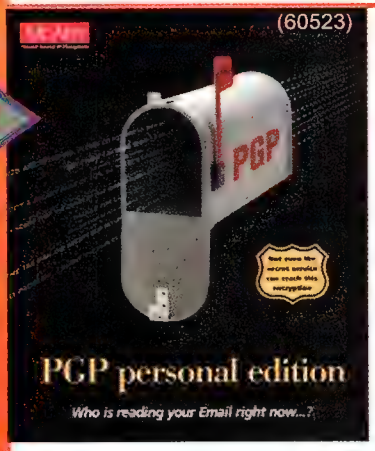
- **Nuts & Bolts** - allows users to optimize, monitor and analyse their system and software, maximize its performance, customize Windows, prevent crashes, and recover from disasters.
- **WebScanX** - extends protection of your system against hostile ActiveX controls and Java classes as well as Viruses located in files and E-Mail attachments from the Internet.
- **Hurricane** - squeezes as much performance out of your system as possible with features that accelerate boot and program launch times, manage your system's memory to increase application performance, and patented cache technology to ensure the system maximizes every ounce of resources.
- **VirusScan** with two years of free updates and upgrades that will extend your virus protection into the next millennium.

$98

Plus... Year 2000 Fix!

Nuts & Bolts Deluxe includes one of the world's first **Year 2000** checks that will verify your system's hardware successfully rolls over from December 31, 1999 to January 1, 2000.

NEW!



(60523)

PGP For Personal Privacy

Easy to use personal encryption software for e-mail and files

$77

As more and more individuals use the Internet for communication, more and more personal information is at risk!

PGP Personal Privacy provides a safeguard for stored and in-transit data, featuring encryption, decryption, digital signature, and message verification for complete desktop security. It encrypts electronic correspondence, online transactions and data so only intended recipients can decipher the contents. For more security, it incorporates authorship and the integrity of documents.

(53505)

VS Security Suite

Offers the most comprehensive protection available for your PC. Every year millions of people have critical information destroyed or stolen from their PC. Whether the threat comes from viruses, hackers on the Internet, internal security breaches, or a failure to back up important files, VSS is the only product to offer total desktop protection at all points of entry.

$99

(42226)

VirusScan 3.0

Comprehensive virus protection for enterprises. Multi-layered protection: Desktop, server, gateway & groupware. Virus solutions OS native, offering maximum flexibility & security. Idle-time scanning: Unique ScreenScan scans systems while screen saver is active.

$62 !!

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SAVE MONEY with McAfee licencing

McAFEE TOTAL VIRUS DEFENSE SUITE

The McAfee Total Virus Defense Suite protects your network against viruses and hostile applets at every point of entry - keeping your network protected at the desktop, the server and the Internet gateway. It's also a powerful management tool - automating the process of updating files and streamlining the job of administration. Now also contains PGP 128 bit encryption for confidential information.

Who's watching your network?

INCLUDES:

VIRUSSCAN SECURITY SUITE
- VirusScan
- WebScanX
- PC Medic
- PGP File
- Quick Backup
- Enterprise Securecast
- NetTools Console

NETSHIELD SECURITY SUITE
- NetShield
- GroupShield Exchange
- GroupShield Lotus Notes
- Enterprise Securecast
- NetTools Console

INTERNET SECURITY SUITE
- WebShield SMTP
- WebShield Proxy
- WebShield LX
- Enterprise Securecast
- NetTools Console

Multi User Packs and Volume Licencing:
All McAfee anti-virus licences include unlimited technical support as well as all upgrades and updates for the period of the licence.

PCWEEKLABS ANALYSTS CHOICE January 1988

GroupShield for Microsoft Exchange

GroupShield for Microsoft Exchange uses Network Associates' award winning Hunter scanning technology to stop destructive viruses before they are distributed to other users. Since traditional anti-virus products cannot scan inside the proprietary databases that groupware environments utilize native anti-virus protection at the Exchange server is essential.

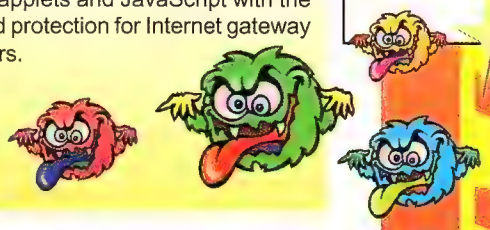
"GroupShield is an easy-to-manage product, rich in anti-virus capability that stands out in the anti-virus for Exchange crowd."

WebShield SMTP

WebShield SMTP - Secure Internet email Gateway Virus Protection for Windows® NT - is designed to scan all inbound and outbound email traffic passing through an SMTP email gateway. The scanning process works transparently to end users in the network. Once a virus is detected WebShield has the ability to automatically clean or quarantine a file and to send alerts to system administrators. WebShield SMTP also provides content filtering to stop virus hoaxes. A complete history log acts as an audit trail for tracking down a virus' origins.

WebShield Proxy

WebShield Proxy is a high performance product designed for Microsoft Proxy Servers on Windows® NT. WebShield Proxy uses Network Associates' award winning Hunter scanning technology to scan for viruses in HTTP and FTP traffic. It also filters out hostile ActiveX, Java applets and JavaScript with the added protection for Internet gateway servers.



Multi-user packs and volume licences available to reduce your costs

Call or e-mail Paul Evans at Harris Technology for more information

paul_evans@ht.com.au

Windows® 98 Compatible

"If you're looking for a virus solution as well as Internet protection, you can't go wrong with VirusScan Security Suite. It costs a bit more, but it's head and shoulders above any other product we tested." CNET, March 1998

Editors' Choice

VirusScan – "100% Detection Certification" Virus Bulletin
– "Leader's Choice for Best PC/Lan Utility of the Year" Computerworld
– "Highest Overall Rating and Best Buy" Secure Computing Magazine
WebScanX – "Best of the Test Centre for 1997" InfoWorld

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CleanSweep Extra Strength

SAFE AND COMPLETE HARD DRIVE CLEAN-UP

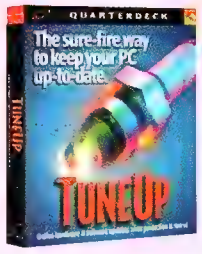
CleanSweep thoroughly removes unwanted programs and files, including the most Internet files for maximum space savings. It finds and removes the most Internet files, including Internet cache, Cookies, and ActiveX files.
Exclusive SafetySweep automatically protects the user from accidental deletions. CleanSweep is the fastest uninstaller available, guaranteed! It now includes scheduled cleanup of unneeded files.

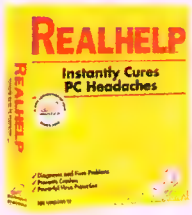
(57595)
Quarterdeck CleanSweep 4.0 Extra Strength

$93

FREE!

Now includes **Zip-It 4.0**, the world's #1 file compression utility, for free! (Value $62!)



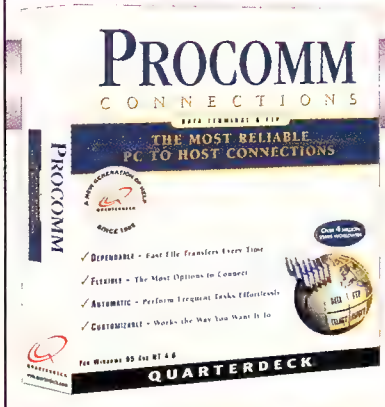


And.. when you register: your choice of either **RealHelp** (Value $82)..

FREE!

..or **ViruSweep** (Value $68) , for free!

Procomm Connections



The most reliable 32-bit PC to Host connections

Quarterdeck Procomm Connections
(59866)

$152

STREAMLINE ACCESS TO MINI OR MAINFRAME HOSTS

Procomm Connections is an advanced connectivity solution that offers information systems professionals, corporate application developers, corporate resellers, VARs and system integrators the power to **streamline access to mini or mainframe systems** with its wide variety of PC-to-host connectivity options.

It provides the key communications tools necessary for corporate workgroups to access data either remotely or across an intranet. Unlike many remote-style communications connections, terminal emulation is both secure and reliable, while data file transfer is faster than accessing a connection or sending a file via a Web browser, a groupware solution, or a remote control product.
Feature packed: Connect to a variety of mini/mainframe systems with 35 terminal emulations for fast, dependable remote access. From keyboard remapping to adding new command keys, you have the widest range of options. Store and manage all your connections from the Connection Directory, then point, click and connect. Includes 11 file transfers protocols, Telnet and FTP clients. Use any terminal emulations or file transfer in Telnet window. And much more.

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Partition-It includes BONUS Select-It, the safe and easy way to run multiple operating systems.

Partition-it Extra Strength

Safely Partitions your hard drive in minutes

- Reclaim up to 40% of your total hard drive space
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Your data and applications are stored on your hard drive within data "clusters". The bigger your hard drive, the bigger the cluster size. The bigger the cluster size, the more space your hard drive will inherently waste. Partition-It frees up valuable hard drive space because it creates smaller partitions which result in smaller cluster sizes.
When you install software, save documents and download files, Windows randomly drops them onto your hard drive. Partition-It divides your hard drive into multiple, more easily-accessed drives or "partitions", so when you install software, it can be stored more efficiently within a smaller partition whose size you designate.

(57591) Quarterdeck Partition-it Extra Strength

$106

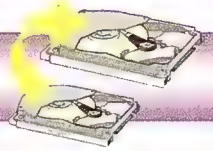
CleanSweep for Administrators

The safest and most complete uninstaller technology available for corporate users who need to remove unneeded programs and files from their Windows® 95/98/NT systems. Unlike competing products, CleanSweep for Administrators provides a powerful administration tool for creating customized "versions" of CleanSweep to be deployed throughout the enterprise. This ability to tailor the capabilities of CleanSweep ensures that the network administrator has complete control over the use of CleanSweep within their enterprise environment.

NEW PRODUCT

Call NOW for pricing!

DiskClone



Will save you countless hours installing new systems, upgrading computers or doing backup

It copies the entire contents of one hard drive, including operating system and software settings to another - "clones" a drive • It makes upgrading a new hard drive easy • It makes getting a new computer and copying settings easy • It gives an alternative way to do backup, and to have a recovery disk

Quarterdeck DiskClone Regular Strength V1.0: Copies from one drive to another (58586) **$66**

Quarterdeck DiskClone Extra Strength V1.0: Copies from drive to another or to/from a file or other storage device (58687) **$99**

Quarterdeck DiskClone Corporate Edition V1.0: Allows deployment of disk images across a wide variety of machines. Includes scripting for deploying multiple machines. For 25 Users. (58688) **$589**

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RealHelp Extra Strength

(57594) Quarterdeck RealHelp Extra Strength

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FIXES PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY CAUSE TROUBLE

REALHELP Extra Strength is a software diagnostic and problem solver that saves users time and frustration of trying to solve problems themselves.
RealHelp automatically stops crashes before they happen allowing the user to save their work. It automatically detects and fixes software conflicts and hardware configuration errors in thousands of applications.

Cures problems caused by:

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- Viruses
- Frozen or locked software programs
- Hard drive problems
- Hardware and/or software conflicts
- Invalid shortcuts
- Windows 95 configuration files
- Bad software installations
- Slow performance

Quarterdeck Rapid Remote

Remote control that anyone can use

Access your office PC from home or while travelling, speedy file transfer and ultra fast screen updates save time on-line.

$68

(45686)

ViruSweep Extra Strength

KILLS VIRUSES BEFORE THEY DAMAGE YOUR PC

Guards against Internet vandals

By actively monitoring for virus-like behavior, ViruSweep blocks the dangerous actions many viruses perform when they try to invade your PC. Actions such as: formatting your hard drive, modifying program files, renaming a file illegally, loading destructive code into memory, taking control of your operating system.
Award-winning e*Safe*™Anti-Vandal Technology actively protects against the new breed of Internet threats called "vandals" that can infiltrate your PC while you surf the Net. Protects against viruses from: Internet Web sites, Internet downloads, shared files, hard disks, zip files, E-mail attachments, floppies and networks.

Quarterdeck ViruSweep Extra Strength (59860)

$103

Remove-It 98

(57592) Quarterdeck Remove-It 98

$47

GET THE GARBAGE OF YOUR DRIVE!

Did you know your hard drive is being bombarded with garbage? Every time you install an application, connect on-line, receive a fax, or install a CD-ROM, you dump bits of electronic debris all over your hard drive. It quickly builds up, wasting disk space and slowing down your PC's performance.

Remove-It removes all this garbage from your hard drive:
• Unneeded applications • duplicate files • unused fonts • unused drivers • old downloaded files from online services • old faxes • orphan Windows 95 Registry entries • unneeded .INI files • orphan icons • shortcuts • file associations and embeddings • zero-byte files • old backup files • unneeded temp files • lost cluster files • unused text files • unneeded Help files •unneeded picture files • unused screen savers • old ZIP archives and more.

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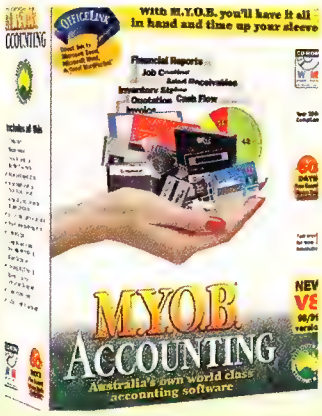
Nice price

M.Y.O.B. Accounting V8



Bulging with powerful features, yet it's just as easy to use as all M.Y.O.B. products.

At the press of a button you can send any of over 100 reports straight from M.Y.O.B into MS Excel. Now you can quickly and easily apply all the flexibility of Excel to your accounting data.

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(58600) OFFICELINK **$325**

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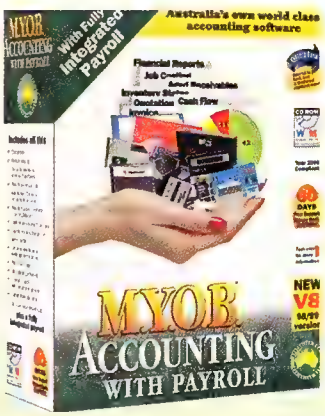

All the power and flexibility of M.Y.O.B. Accounting plus a fully-integrated Payroll. Process your payroll and the rest of your accounting system is instantly up-dated. Your payroll is an integral part of your accounting system as it impacts your general ledger and bank accounts. Your payroll should be fully integrated! Calculates PAYE deductions, superannuation, holiday and sick leave. Prints group certificates, pay cheques and generates files for your bank to auto-pay staff via bank transfer.

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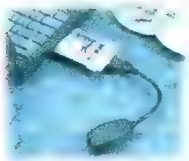

56301 **$233**

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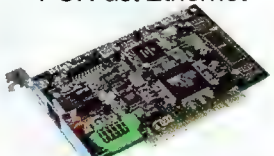

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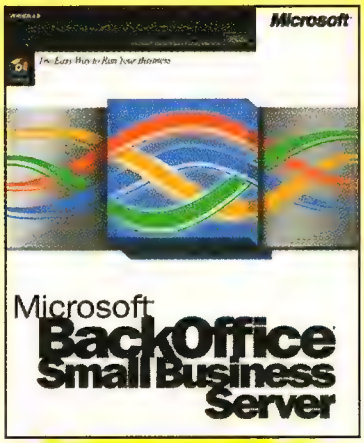

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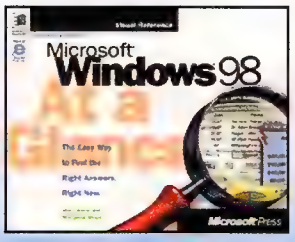

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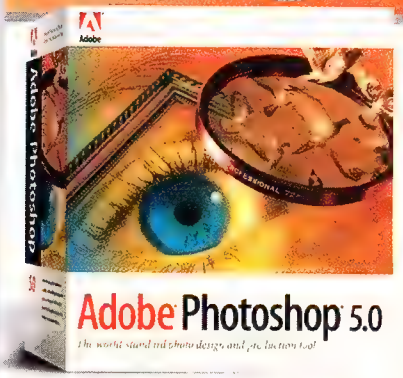

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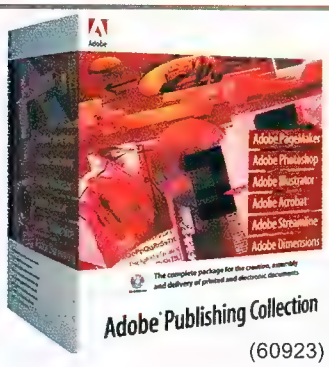

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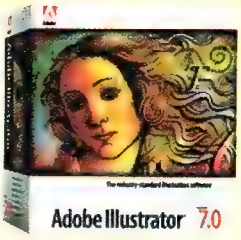

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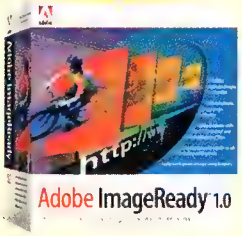

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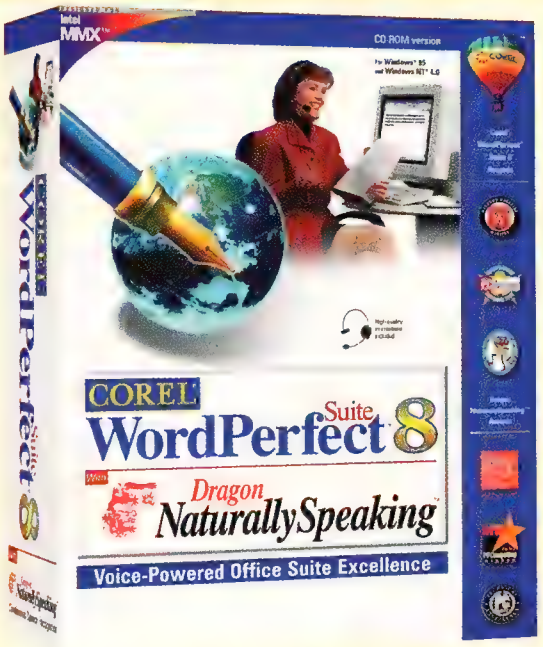

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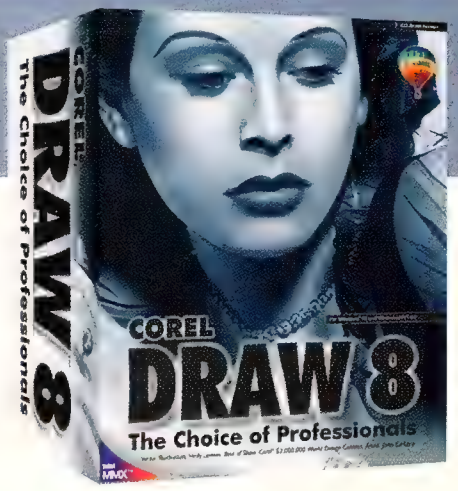

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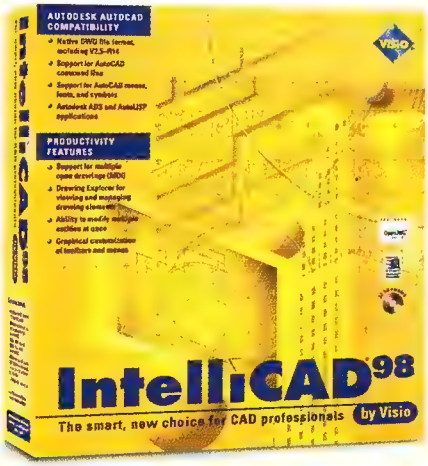

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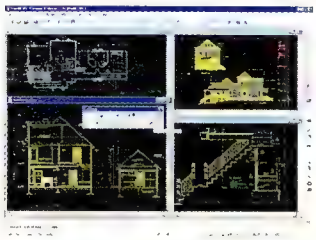

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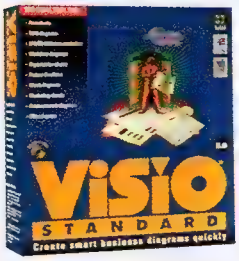

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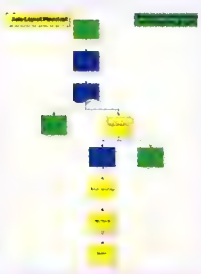

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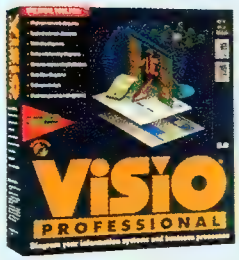

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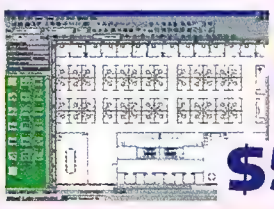

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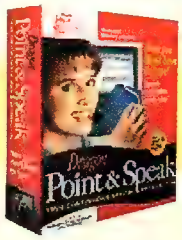

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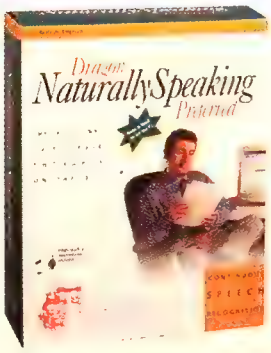

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Its high accuracy, fast performance, and extensive vocabulary give you outstanding recognition for your toughest general dictation projects.

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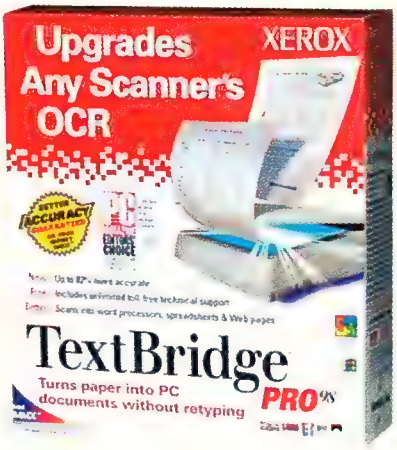

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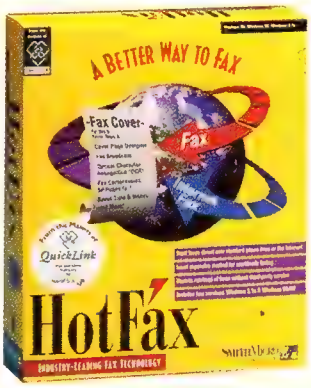

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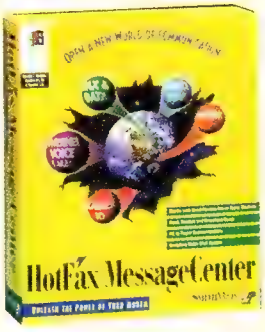

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- Synchronising External Flash enabled. (with optional flash cable)
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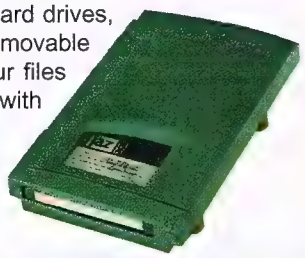

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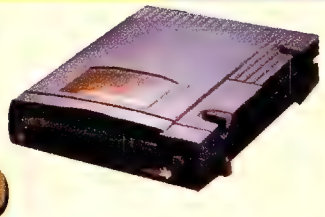

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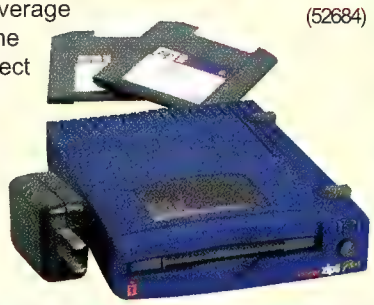

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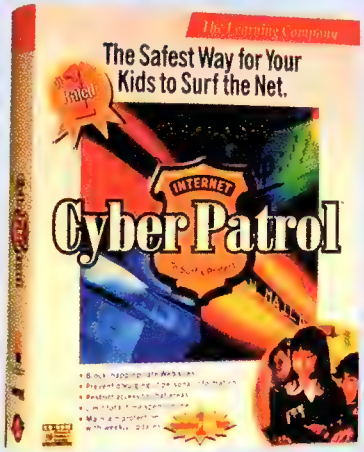

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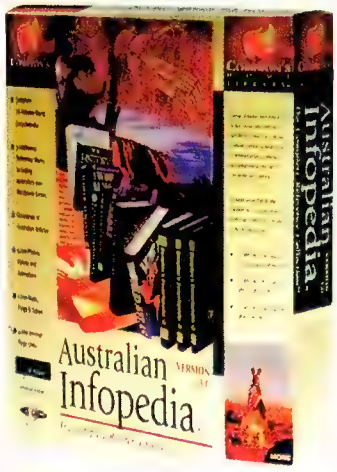

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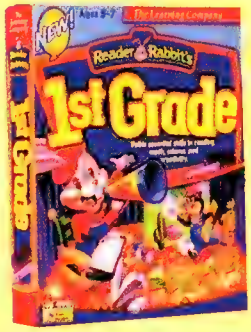

Tonight is the premiere of Reader Rabbit's variety show, but all the stage supplies have mysteriously disappeared! Can you help recreate the set, scripts, props, and costumes in time?

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* Learn Addition and Subtraction
* Teaches similarities and differences

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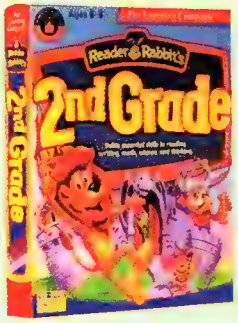

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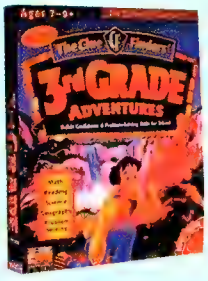

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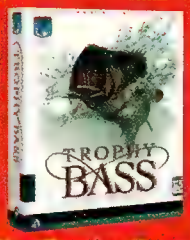

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Top 5 of The Month

1

Dune 2000

In 1992 the real time strategy genre was started. and it was started by Dune II. Now comes a new game from Westwood Studios, Dune 2000. Can you harvest the precious spice, and lead your soldiers across the desert dunes of Arrakis and win the fiefdom. The fight lives on.

PCCD (21019)

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2

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3

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Dominion comes foward to offer what no RTS has offered before. Real real time for quick play. The most sophisticated AI ever allows your enemies perform cooperative group attacks and more. Play against up to 8 other human players.

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4

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PCCD (20848) PSX (21437)

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5

Road Rash 3D

Relive the glory that is Road Rash, but in glorious 3D. Take to the roads with your whips and chains, and win the race, however you can. Race the computer, score the cash to buy a bigger bike, or race your friends to ultimate victory.

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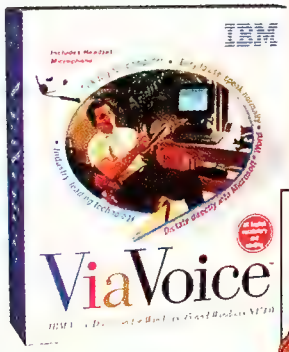

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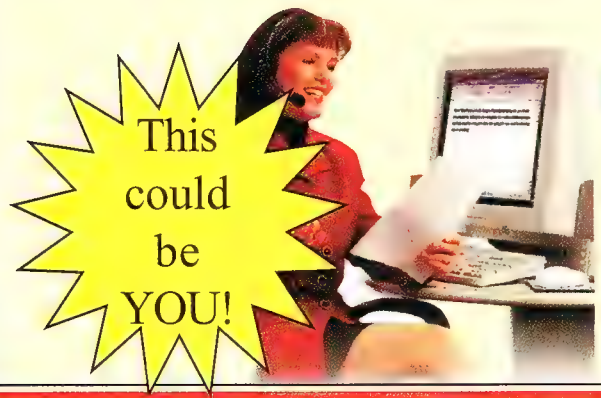

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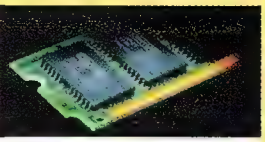

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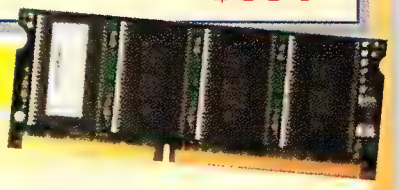

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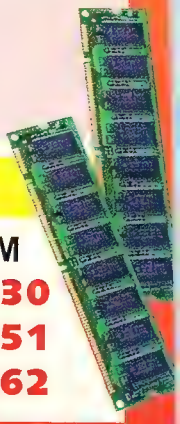
	Compaq	- Armada 1510DM, 1520DM, 1530DM, 1535DM, 1540DM, 1550DMT, 1580DMT, 1585DMT, 1590DMT, 7330T, 7350MT, 7710MT, 7730MT, 7750MT	
	IBM	- Thinkpad : 380/D, 380E, 380ED, 560E (2640-3xU, 4xU), 560x (2640-70U)	
64Mb	Toshiba	- Portege 650CT, 660CDT - Tecra 520CDT, 530CDT, 750CDT	$334
	Compaq	- Armada 1510DM, 1520DM, 1530DM, 1535DM, 1540DM, 1550DMT,1580DMT, 1585DMT, 1590DMT, 7330T, 7350MT, 7710MT, 7730MT,7750MT	
	IBM	- Thinkpad : 380/D, 380E, 380ED, 560E (2640-3xU, 4xU), 560x (2640-70U)	



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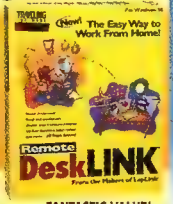

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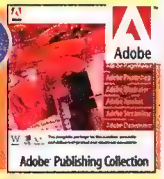

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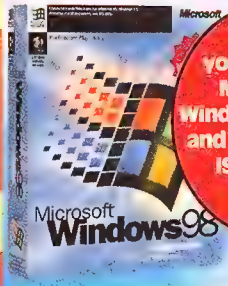

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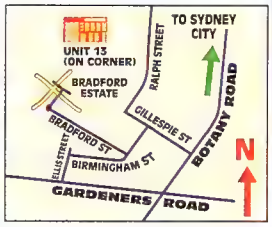

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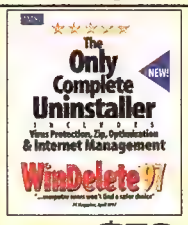

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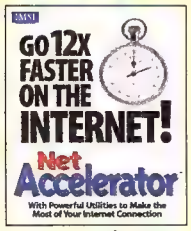

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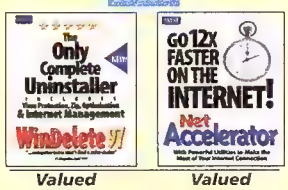

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Microsoft FrontPage 98 with Bonus pack makes creating professional-quality websites effortless with powerful new functionality, support for the latest Web technologies and seamless integration with Microsoft Office. It's never been easier.

Create and manage Web sites with graphical tools. View and easily manage hierarchical, graphical and directory representations of your Web site in the FrontPage.

Includes powerful Web technologies.

Easily incorporate your own tags, ActiveXT, controls, database support, JavaScriptT, browser plug-ins, and Visual Basics, Scripting Edition.

Build eye-catching pages using WYSIWYG editing-there's no need to know HTML because the FrontPage Editor provides a graphical editing environment that works like other Microsoft Office 97 applications. Add content with wizards, templates and drag-and-drop ease. Plus many more features

MSS022 Microsoft FrontPage 98 ..... $149

MSS026 MS FrontPage 98 U/G $79

MS Publisher 98

Publisher 98 is the world's leading business DTP application.

Publisher 98 features a completely re-designed flexible wizard model that allows you to utilize the power of the wizard at any time during the creative process. It includes over 16000 professionally designed templates to help you get started, then continues to provide the professional design guidance you need to get a unique look for your small business or volunteer organization. And to carry that look across all your marketing materials - whether they are printed on your colour desktop printer or posted on the World Wide Web.

Includes:

- Professionally designed templates for all occasions.
- Allows you to browse through over 1500 professionally designed publication templates to.
- Professional desinged sets of publication give you a consistent look.
- Provides step by step instructions
- Colour schemes are easy to apply and change - get your own look.
- Choose from 10,000+ pieces of unique clip are, 175 fonts, 1,500 photographs, 1,000 Web art elements, and over 300 animated GIFs.

MSS098 MS Publisher 98 ..... $149

MSS089 MS Publisher 98 U/G $119

MS Project 98

Managing your projects shouldn't be a project in itself

Microsoft Project 98 is a major upgrade to the best selling project management software.

Microsoft Project 98 builds on the leading-edge features with even greater control over the project, improved resource management, and more communication features.

Microsoft Project 98 is the only project management software that puts you in control of your projects, keeps everyone informed and involved, and is compatible with the way you work today.

Microsoft Project 98 lets you plan and track all projects, from simple to complex, with confidence so that you can quickly adapt to changes as they occur. It also allows you to communicate your project plans to keep everyone informed, involved and your project on track.

Microsoft Project 98 easily fits into the way you work today thanks to its compatibility with your desktop, your database, and your development tools.

MSS023 MS Project 98 ..... $679

MSS024 MS Project 98 U/G $259

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Microsoft

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Windows 95

This ground breaking upgrade to Microsoft Windows replaces Windows 3.1, Windows for Workgroups 3.1 and all versions of MS-DOS. It's robust, fast and features integrated multimedia, networking and a fantastic new interface!

WIN072 MS Windows 95 on CD U/G **$149**
WIN071 MS Windows 95 on 3.5 U/G **$155**

Windows NT

Combining the ease of use of Windows with the power, reliability and security of Windows NT which has made a must in the demanding market of workstation. This release includes built in networking support, new administrative features and much more.

MIC464 MS Windows NT Workstation 4.0 ..... **$439**
MIC486 MS Windows NT Workstation 4.0 U/G **$205**

Microsoft Visual Studio 97

Microsoft Visual Studio 97 is the complete of visual tools from Microsoft.

Microsoft Visual Studio 97 Professional Edition gives developers the tools and flexibility to create high-performance Windows and Internet applications, with Microsoft Visual Basics 5.0, Visual C++ 5.0, Visual InterDev 1.0, Visual FoxPro 5.0 and the MSDN library Developer Reference CD-ROM.

MIC692 Microsoft Vis/Studio Pro 97 Ed **$299**
MIC685 Microsoft Vis/Studio Ent 97 U/G**$1399**
MIC736 Microsoft Vis/Studio Pro 97 CD. **$1349**
MIC682 Microsoft Vis/Studio Pro 97 U/G..**$689**

Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0

Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0 is a rapid application development (RAD) tool.

Easily create ActiveX controls that can be reused in many different development tools, including Visual Basic, Visual C++, Microsoft Office and Microsoft Internet Explorer. Convert existing applications developed with Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0 to ActiveX Web applications .

BVG028 MS VIS Basic V5 Learning Edition CD **$139**
MIC265 MS VIS Basic PRO V5 CD **$695**
MIC352 MS VIS Basic PRO V5 U/G **$359**
MIC679 MS VIS Basic PRO V5 C/G **$419**
MSS009 MS VIS Basic Enterprise **$1649**
MIC684 MS VIS Basic Enterprise U/G **$939**

Microsoft Visual C++

MIC715 Visual C++V5 Standard CD **$139**
MIC678 Visual C++ V5 Pro **$649**
MIC739 Visual C++ V5 U/G **$349**
MIC680 Visual C++ V5 Ed **$135**

Microsoft Visual J++

MIC485
Visual J++
..... **$129**

Visual InterDev

Visual InterDev provides the most complete and technically advanced development system for building both intranet and internet applications.

MIC753 Visual InterDev..... **$699**

MS BackOffice Small Business Server & MS Office 97 Pro

Microsoft BackOffice Small Business makes it easy to manage and grow your business and now with MicroSoft Office 97 Pro You Have the Complete Business Solution.

Ask about huge savings on Office 97 Professional*

Microsoft Small Business Server features award-winning products that give you everything you need to run a growing business. Designed for companies with 25 or fewer PCs, it's an integrated solution for sharing files, databases, printers, electronic mail, fax services, applications, and other resources with anyone, anywhere, at any time-all from one integrated server. You get advanced communication services and fast, flexible access to the Internet. Best of all, the server is exceptionally easy to set up, manage, and use, so you can get up and running with it right away.
MS Small Business Server works easily with MS Office and other leading applications, so you can integrate information from almost any source into your desktop PCs.
What's more, the server supports applications for MS Windows - the world's most popular software environment - so the latest, best solutions will continue to be available for your business. Software developers have already created more than 2,000 applications and tools that work with Microsoft Small Business Server to meet specific business needs.
Microsoft Small Business Server can also help you schedule meetings with employees, customers, and business partners, and assign and manage tasks among team members regardless of their location-all without expensive conference calls. Or you can publish a White Pages directory of names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers to ease collaboration between employees and business associates.

File, print, and application services;
Proven product, secure, reliable, comprehensive platform for connecting to the Internet .
MS SQL Server provides a powerful, secure relational database for running business apps.

Communicate in new, more efficient ways;
Communicate across the world build an online community with electronic mail, discussion groups etc. Centrally manage sending and receiving faxes. Locate a Service Provider & get on the Internet fast! MS Proxy Server - fast, secure access to the Internet from individual desktop PCs.

Easy to set up, manage, and grow
Installing MS Small Business Server is truly easy. Automated tools walk you through the setup step by step.

MSS117 BackOffice SBS 4.0 + Office 97 Pro 5 Users starter kit..... **$4199**
MSS118 BackOffice SBS 4.0 + Office 97 Pro Additional 5 Client Licence..... **$2499**
MSS070 BackOffice SBS 4.0 English Intl C/P Upg. CD 5 Client **$1299**
MSS072 BackOffice SBS 4.0 English Intl CD 5 Client..... **$2159**
MSS071 BackOffice SBS 4.0 English Intl CD 25 Client..... **$3359**
*When purchased with BackOfice SBS

Microsoft BackOffice Version 4.0

Microsoft BackOffice provides the integration, ease of use, scaleability and manageability hitherto unavailable with traditional client server or Internet software. It provides the best foundation for a new class of solutions that combine the best of three-tier client server and Internet technologies allowing either thick client or thin client solutions to be used as appropriate.

The Microsoft BackOffice 4.0 includes six integrated "best-of-breed" components that work together to help run your business.

They are:

Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0
A multipurpose network operating system that is the most powerful, reliable and open platform to build, deploy and manage file and print sharing, client-server and Internet applications for your networks. Windows NT 4.0 includes Internet information Server - so you have all you need to set up a web server.

Microsoft SQL Server 6.5
SQL Server 6.5 represents the state-of-the-art in relational database management technology, with enhancements including increased performance, heterogeneous replication to ODBC subscribers, distributed transaction control, and Internet connectivity.

Microsoft SNA Server 3.0
Makes it easy to connect PCs to IBM mainframes and Asi400 systems. Graphical administration tools help you configure and manage that connectivity, giving users convenient, reliable access to host systems, and administrators easier management of new users and devices.

Microsoft Systems management Server 1.2
The most comprehensive solution for managing an entire enterprise-wide system or a 20-node network; an easy way to manage your system that also helps you control administrative costs.

Microsoft Exchange Server 4.0
A highly scalable messaging solution integrating e-mail, group scheduling, electronic forms and GroupWare applications.

Proxy Server 1.0
The Microsoft Proxy Server is the easiest and most secure way to bring Internet access to every desktop in an organisation.

MSS130 MS BackOffice Server 4.0 ..... **$3439**
MSS131 MS BackOffice Server 4.0 Comp U/G..... **$2809**
MSS132 MS BackOffice Server 4.0 Version U/G **$1209**

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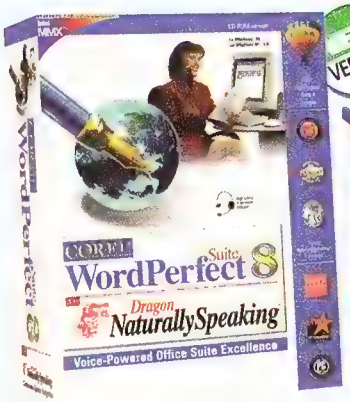

- **Word Processor**
- **Slide Show** (Fully compatible with MS Powerpoint
- **SpreadSheet**
- **Personal Information Manager**

WordPerfect 8 - The worlds best word processor - improved Shadow Cursor and lots of new features.
- Versions - keeps track of document revisions for workgroup collaboration.
- Internet Publishing Capabilities - edit or create your document in WordPerfect and publish it to HTML with support for embedded Java applets.

Corel Quattro Pro 8 - A powerful spreadsheet application - import functions and macros form Excel and Lotus 1-2-3. Quickly and easily create charts and formulas with new & improved features.
- WYSIWYG Page View - work with pages as they will appear when they are printed
- Cell Reference Checker - ensures accuracy by checking and fixing formulas that refer to other cells.

Corel Presentations 8 - The most intuitive presentation software with The Show Expert. With many improvements and new features, Presentations 8 will enable you to design professional presentations.
- nsition Effects - 120 effects to add excitement to your presentations
- v It - Publish your presentations on the Web - full support for animation, sound, graphics video.

CorelCENTRAL - A new fully featured Information Manager offering a wide range of features:
- Conferencing - share information and have real-time voice conversations using your Internet connection
- Mailbox - send and receive e-mail messages using open Internet standards
- Calendaring and Scheduling - organise and keep track of your schedule, tasks, and create and track personal and assigned workgroup tasks.
- Address Book - store and access all your contact numbers / addresses through the suite.
- Flexible Card Files - store a wide variety of information, including contracts and inventory. Ultra-powerful linking technology lets you connect card file records, other files, and Internet addresses.

Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 with Dragon NaturallySpeaking brings together two award-winning products to give you powerful office software, the latest Internet technology and speech-enabled word processing. Because Dragon NaturallySpeaking is fully integrated into Corel WordPerfect 8, you can create documents just by speaking to your computer!

Amazing Value

Corel WordPerfect 8
Corel Quattro Pro 8
Corel Presentations 8
CorelCENTRAL 8 with fully integrated Netscape Communicator 4.04 &
Dragon NaturallySpeaking Personal Edition 2.0
High quality
Headset and Microphone
Vocabulary Builder
Select-and-Stay

Plus

Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia 1998 version
Corel Photo House 2
Envoy Viewer 7
Corel Software Developer's Kit
Corel Barista?Printer Driver
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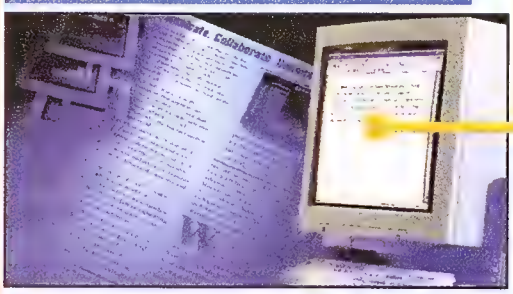

Dragon NaturallySpeaking

Dictate directly to your computer

Dragon NaturallySpeaking Features:

- True Continuous Speech - speak to your computer naturally and at a normal pace-up to 160 words per minute-pausing between words
- Immediate Recognition- dictate entire paragraphs continuously. Your words appear immediately on your screen and in your document
- Highly Accurate - take advantage of the high accuracy rate. An independent study by PC Week Labs finds accuracy to be "95% or higher." PC World reports 98% accuracy. Words are spelled correctly every time
- Extensive vocabulary - built-in active vocabulary of 30,000 words and a total vocabulary of over 230,000 words. Most of the words people use every day are recognized immediately
- Personalize vocabulary- automatically add unique words, terms, and names. The Vocabulary Builder finds words in text files and enters the words, their pronunciations, and the word usage information into your personal vocabulary
- Learns your voice - can learn dialects, accents, and individual pronunciations quickly and automatically
- Natural spelling - lets you spell words simply and continuously using standard letter names
- Correct and edit anytime - concentrate on your work, not on your keyboard. Changes can be made as you go or later
- Text shorthands- quickly insert frequently used phrases and sentences just by saying a single word or phrase.
- Select-and-Say - easily edit, format or correct words and phrases by saying "select" followed by the words you want to change. Then, say the new words or a command such as "bold that."

COR527	Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 U/G & Dragon Naturally Speaking.	**$259**
COR526	Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 Dragon Naturally Speaking	**$579**
COR257	Corel WordPerfect Suite 8.	**$525**

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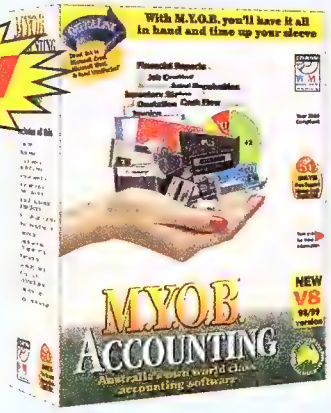
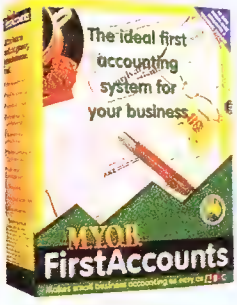


M.Y.O.B. Accounting Version 8 builds on all of M.Y.O.B.'s award-winning features and adds • M.Y.O.B. OfficeLink direct link to MS Word and MS Excel • User-definable aging – choose 7-14-21 days or whatever you want. Plus correct monthly aging. • electronic payments via your bank & 27 other enhancements. Features include; General Ledger, Chequebook, Sales & Receivables, Purchases & Payables and Full Inventory. **M.Y.O.B. Accounting with Payroll** includes all of these features plus a fully integrated Payroll.

MYO030 M.Y.O.B. Accounting V8 ..... **$329**

MYO031 M.Y.O.B. Accounting V8 with payroll **$489**

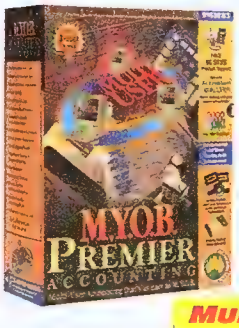
M.Y.O.B. FirstAccounts



Your ideal first accounting system, M.Y.O.B. FirstAccounts makes it easy for you to track income and expenditure, reconcile bank statements, create and print invoices, statements, and purchase orders, track who owes you money and who you owe money to. Produce profit & loss and other key reports with a mouse click. No business is too small for FirstAccounts. Outgrown Quicken, MS-Money? You can easily move up to M.Y.O.B. FirstAccounts.

MYO025 M.Y.O.B. FirstAccounts **$169**

M.Y.O.B. Premier



Multi-user accounting that's as easy as M.Y.O.B.

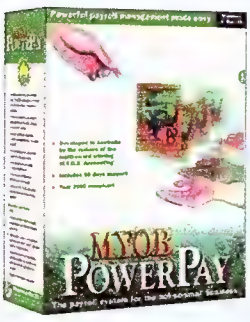
All the accounting features of M.Y.O.B. Accounting with Payroll plus additional features tuned for use across a network by multiple users.

M.Y.O.B. Premier brings the power, flexibility and award-winning ease-of-use of M.Y.O.B. to multiple concurrent users. Includes access for 3 concurrent users – additional licences easily added.

Multi-user

MYO023 M.Y.O.B. Premier **$885**

M.Y.O.B. PowerPay

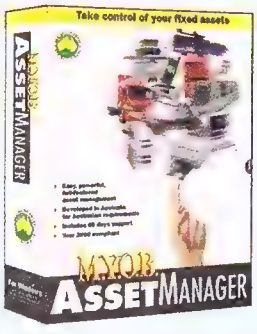


Ideal for companies with between 20 and 500 employees PowerPay handles every aspect of paying employees from hiring to retiring. It processes pays, calculates super, tracks leave and much more than we can fit in this space. And unlike some competitors, PowerPay easily handles payroll tax in multiple states.

You can import pay information from spreadsheets, databases. PowerPay directly links to M.Y.O.B. and other accounting software.

MYO028 M.Y.O.B. PowerPay **$459**

M.Y.O.B. AssetManager



Do you know where your assets are? Are you keeping the depreciation schedules & asset cost information the Australian Tax Office requires? M.Y.O.B. AssetManager helps you easily answer these questions. It puts you in control of your fixed assets no matter the size of your organisation. And for assets that need maintenance it keeps a full history and reminds you when services are due.

Now depreciates software as required by Tax Office

MYO003 M.Y.O.B. AssetManager **$259**

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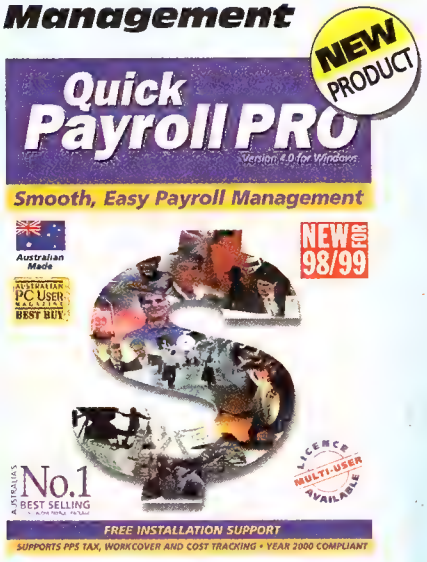
Quick Payroll Pro 4.0

Smooth, Easy Payroll Management

Quick Payroll Pro is Australia's largest selling stand alone payroll software package. It is a locally developed program currently in use in more than 15,000 Australian small businesses - that provides fast, easy, flexible and affordable payroll management. Regardless of the size of you company Quick Payroll Pro is the ideal payroll solution.

Provides for

- Up to 99,999 employees per company.
- One button processing of your entire payroll.
- Unlimited companies with unlimited departments and awards.
- Cash breakup report.
- Standard and/or spreadsheet and/or timesheet entry of employee pays.
- Cost Tracking - bill clients for your employees' time and then export this data to QuickBooks for automatic creation and printing of invoices.
- Ease of use - Wizards step you through creating a new company, setting up Quick Payroll Pro, entering employees' details and creating new reports.



Quick Payroll 4.0
Designed for small businesses

Quick Payroll competes feature for feature with its big brother Quick Payroll Pro, with the following modifications tailored to meet the needs of a small business:

- Single user only
- Create only one company with up to 10 employees
- Fewer user designed reports
- No cost centre reporting

Standard Reporting - A flexible and easy-to-use reporting module has been included, enabling a high degree of personalised reporting to suit your specific payroll requirements.
Set Up Interview - steps you through tailoring Quick Payroll Pro to suit your specific needs.

Both Versions - Top 5 Features

1 Award Interpretation - enables customers to enter any Australian Award directly into Quick Payroll - Awards will handle multiple level rates & multiple age rates.

2 Electronic lodgement of Superannuation contributions - can be recorded as employer S.G.C., salary sacrifice, spouse contributions, etc. Each employee can have any number of contributions to superannuation funds.

3 Enhanced Leave Accrual - allows each employee to have an unlimited number of leave types. Users can set up any leave rate they desire, specify when leave should start accruing, how often it should accrue, and also the amount to accrue.

4 Enhanced integration with QuickBooks for Windows 5 - Quick Payroll will start up QuickBooks for Windows, send the payroll data across & shut it down.

5 Easy update via the Internet - Quick Payroll, when connected to the Internet will update itself automatically.

STOCK CODE: QUI103 ..... **$369**

QUI102 Quick Payroll V4 ..... **$135**

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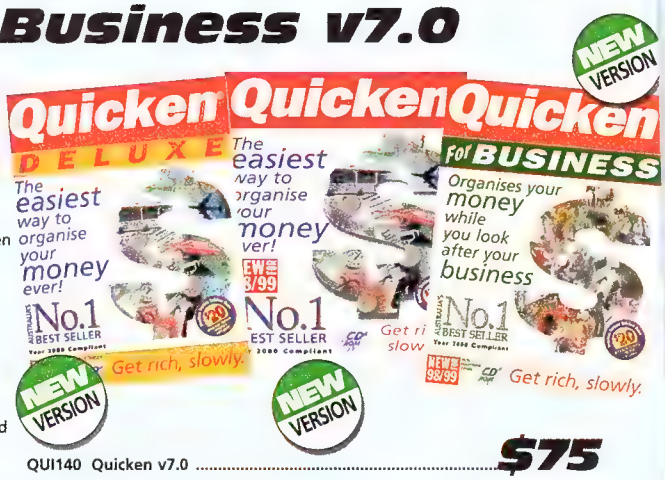
Quicken v7.0, Quicken Deluxe v7.0 and Quicken For Business v7.0

Quicken is the world's, including Australia's, biggest selling personal and small business financial management software package.



Enabling you to see exactly where your money is going:
Quicken provides clear insights that vastly improve financial decision making. Easy set-up Quicken guides you step-by-step through the program without using accounting jargon or complex instructions.Saves time Quicken quickly calculates account balances and speedily reconciles bank and credit card statements.

Keeps you in control:
Quicken tracks bank accounts, credit cards, loans, mortgages and investments. It also reminds you when bills fall due and tracks all your outstanding orders direct debits automatically.

Provides financial insights:
Quicken's clear reports and graphs show exactly where your money goes, while the EasyAnswer reports and graphs answer the most frequently asked questions instantly. Helps you plan for the future Quicken creates budgets and helps you stick to them; forecasts future balances for each of your accounts; organises records for Tax Returns; helps you plan for retirement, house purchase and other financial goals. Quicken also includes a new Overdraft function, warning you if you're about to go overdrawn.

A valuable business tool
Quicken graphs cashflow for future months and creates Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Statements and many more key reports. Internet access Quicken's 'Live for Windows 95' function gives you direct access to the Internet and the Quicken ISP, an Internet Service Provider exclusive to Quicken customers.

QUI140 Quicken v7.0 ..... **$75**

QUI141 Quicken Deluxe v7.0 ..... **$89**

QUI142 Quicken For Business v7.0 ..... **$135**

Easy invoicing (Quicken Deluxe and Quicken For Business versions)
Able to create clear, professional looking invoices, Quicken's QuickInvoice function enables you to manage your small business invoicing.

Create a home contents inventory (Quicken Deluxe and Quicken For Business versions)
Quicken's Home Inventory capability enables you to know how much your home inventory is worth, exactly where each possession is located and how much insurance is needed to cover them accurately. This function can also read information already entered into Quicken.

WorkFlow Manager (Quicken For Business only) Boosting the power of Quicken, WorkFlow Manager is an Australian-designed program that integrates seamlessly with Quicken For Business to create and track enquiries, quotes, work in progress and invoices for all your customers - with ease.

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QuickTax 97/98

Australia's # 1 Best Selling Personal Tax Preparation software

NEW PRODUCT

QuickTax is probably the easiest and fastest way of preparing your tax Return for the 1997/98 tax year without fuss and in the privacy of your own home. The online help ensures that most questions or difficulties you encounter can be overcome without the need for costly, professional advice. Simply sit down with your records and receipts, or automatically transfer data from last year's QuickTax or import your tax file from Quicken.

QuickTax's unique Interview system walks you through the entire process. The on-screen tax return is identical to the one in this year's TaxPack. Choose the level of help you need. If a step doesn't apply, skip it. It's so easy. If you can't complete your tax return using QuickTax, your money will be refunded - Guaranteed.

EASY TO USE
An intelligent, customised interviewer will walk you through your complex tax return and automatically enter your answers on the spot.

GUARANTEED ACCURATE
A built-in auditor will check for contentious issues, alert you to possible causes for a desk audit and advise you on what supporting documentation you require.

TOTALLY PRIVATE
Complete your tax return without any breach of privacy. You can take whatever time you want, without fear of being pushed around by a know-it-all accountant or tax agent.

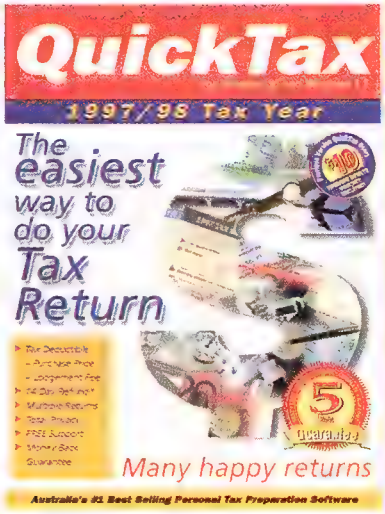
MULTIPLE RETURNS
There is no limit to the number of tax returns you can prepare with a single copy of QuickTax.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE
Both the purchase price of QuickTax and your lodgement fees are tax deductible.

14 DAY REFUND*
*The Australian Tax Office will do their utmost to ensure that QuickTax customers receive their refund or assessment within 14 days of lodgement (if lodged electronically through TaxPacExpress).

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

- Sit-down with your records and receipts, or automatically transfer data from last year's QuickTax or import your tax files from Quicken.
- An intelligent, customised interview will ask you specific questions related to your tax situation and walk you through your complete tax return.
- Your answers are automatically entered in the right spot on your tax return.
- QuickTax's build-in Author will check your tax return for contentious issues and alert you to possible causes for a desk audit and supporting documentation required.
- Finally, QuickTax prints your complete return, ready to sign. The ATO will accept either the printout form QuickTax or electronic lodgement of a QuickTax prepared return through either the National Lodgement Centre (disk mailer enclosed), any Post Office or participating Registered Tax Agents.



Preparing your Tax Return has never been so simple!

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FileMaker Pro 4.0

FileMaker

Powerful relational database software

- Share departmental and regional information with instant web publishing - no separate web server application required.
- Capture information from - and share information with - visitors to your web site using custom web publishing.
- Take advantage of FileMaker Connection Assistant in HomePage 3 software (not included) to design eye-catching, interactive web pages.
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- Access word processing functionality in any text field to customize fonts, styles, tabs, indents, and text attributes.
- Automate routine tasks easily with ScriptMaker.
- Create relational solutions to increase the power and flexibility of your databases. Even sort information from related databases.
- Share files seamlessly between Windows and MacOS versions.

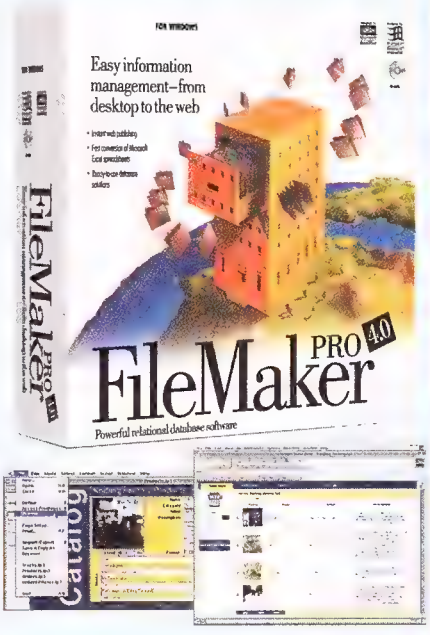
FileMaker Pro 4.0 gives you powerful new relational database features, instant web publishing, fast conversion of Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and ready-to-use database solutions. FileMaker Pro is a software package that lets you work with and share information wherever you need it.

Instant Web Publishing
- Without the need for separate web applications or writing HTML code, you can publish your FileMaker databases.

Ready-to-use database solution
- Quickly transform Microsoft Excel v4 and v5 spreadsheets - or data from other sources - into fully functional FileMaker databases.
- Get started by using more than 40 professionally designed FileMaker database templates.

NEW! Just Released

FileMaker Pro 4.0 Developer Edition has received 100% Pure Java Certification from Sun Microsystems' Java software division. The Developer Edition features an application program interface allowing developers to write external functions for FileMaker Pro Databases. Enjoy the benefits of easily developing cross platform, very important for creating databases for company Internet, intranet and extranet Web sites.



FIL001 FileMaker Pro 4.0 ..... **$295**

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FIL003 FileMaker Pro 4.0 Developer Edition **$829**

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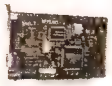

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10/100 PCMCIA $279

Network Starter Kit 4 port hub, 2x10/100 NICs cables, starter guide $249

For a limited time only.

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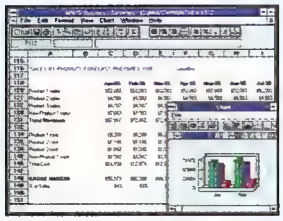
Business & Marketing Plans

The Easy Way

Save 50-90% of the time to prepare a plan!

NEW Version 4 FREE Workbook in Level 2 Software

MAUS MasterPlan is designed for people who need a winning, professional Business Plan instantly. Its simple language reinforces its user-friendliness, explaining every process. A step-by-step question and answer format enables you to construct full financials, text and graphics at the click of a button. **MAUS** MasterPlan will also easily instruct you how to analyse and develop your business.



Topics covered include Sales Analysis, Market Analysis, SWOT Analysis, Marketing Plan, Financial Plan, and much more. Australian written and tested in the field, this program has been tailored specifically to meet the needs of Australian users and is suitable for both product and service businesses in any industry. With **MAUS** MasterPlan, your Business Plans will be more effective, more impressive, and greatly improve your chance of achieving success!

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Runs on Windows 3.1 & Windows 95

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Your Computer Magazine

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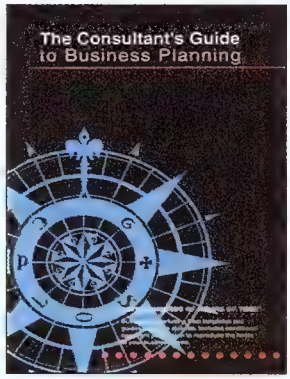

Used by 1000's of Accountants and Consultants across Australia, the **MAUS** Consultan'ts Pack will give you the forms, tools and know-how to establish a Successful Business Planning Consultancy overnight. Includes **MAUS** MasterPlan Professional, the Consultant's Guide to Business Planning, special Consultancy Software, questionnaires for clients and a training manual.
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MAUS Consultant's Pack: Includes **MAUS** MasterPlan Professional, the Consultant's Guide to Business Planning, special Consultancy Software, questionnaires for clients and training manual.

MAU003 **MAUS** Consultant's Pack (Inc **MAUS** MasterPlan Professional) **$455**

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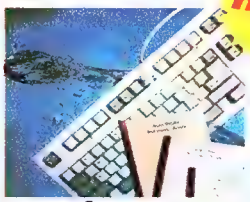

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MAUS Job descriptions

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SYM068 WinFax PRO 8.0 ..... **$135**

SYM179 ACT! 4.0 ..... **$139**

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Take the frustration out of mobile computing!

End mobile frustrations! As a mobile professional, you rely on your laptop to keep you working even if you're working halfway around the world. Norton Mobile Essentials puts an end to all your mobile frustrations. It makes sure your laptop is prepared for travel. Lets you instantly adjust software settings to your new location, and resolves connection problems once you get there.

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Features

- Check for viruses, hard disk integrity and modem functionality with a simple click.
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- Instantly check for adapters you'll need to plug-in and log-on anywhere in the world.
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- Look up car rental, hotel, travel information and more.
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Guarantee your Productivity. Anywhere. Anytime.

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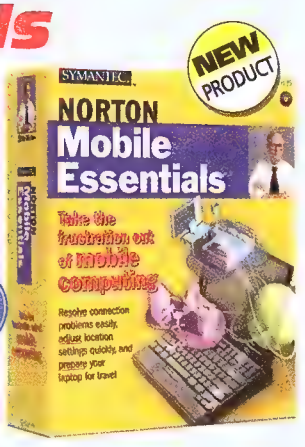

NOR084 Norton Mobile Essentials..... **$149**

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Easy remote access to PCs from anywhere, anytime!

pcAnywhere 32 for Windows 95 and Windows NT is the fastest, easiest way to remotely access PCs, applications, and information from a home or office PC or network. Make quick, easy connections via modem, network, or the Internet to check e-mail, remotely support clients, download files, or simply run remote applications. Expanded Internet support, with SmartList and advanced security options, allows you to easily and safely access your PC while saving on long-distance phone charges.

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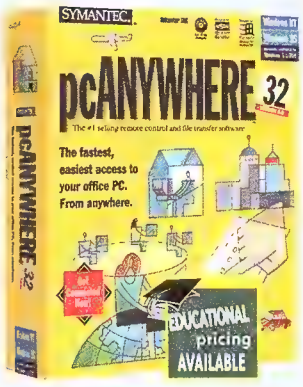

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- Build, edit, debug and deploy CORBA objects
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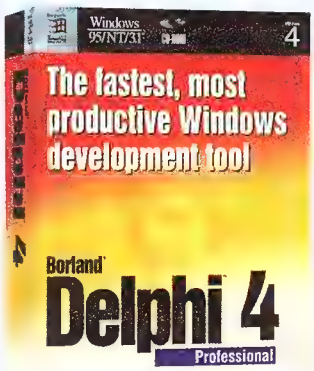

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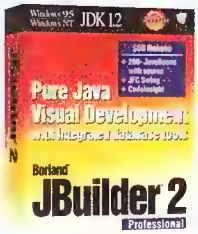
Borland JBuilder 2



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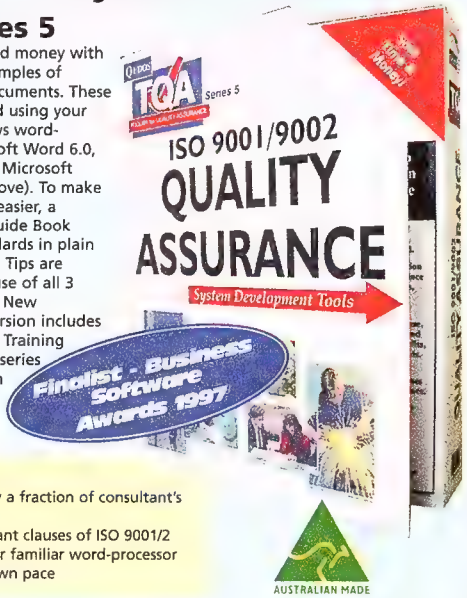

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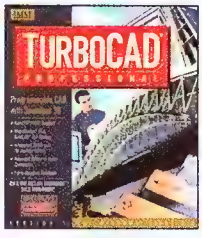

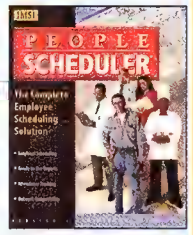

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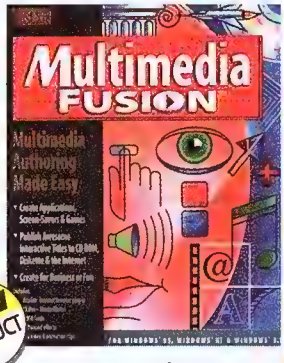

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Dragon Naturally Speaking Preferred

NEW PRODUCT

With its ground breaking technology and award winning performance offers the following top features;

True Continuous Speech - Speak to your computer naturally at a normal pace, up to 160 words per minute and more, without pausing between words.

Highly Accurate - Typical accuracy 95%. Words are spelled correctly every time.

Large Vocabulary - Spelling, pronunciation, context recognition and word usage information is included for over 230,000 words.

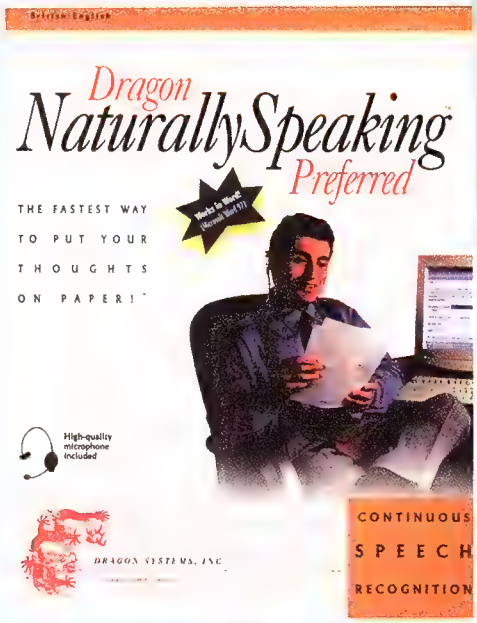
Personalised Vocabulary - Use the Vocabulary Builder to add new words and specialised terms automatically, together with their pronunciations and usage information.

Correct and edit at any time - Edit as you go, or do it later. You can even edit documents by voice that had previously been typed.

Text Shorthands - Quickly insert frequently used phrases and sayings just by saying a single word or phrase.

New Features

- **Multiple Users** - The system learns about each user's accent and individual pronunciations during a brief enrolment period. Subsequently the system maintains individual voice files, ensuring optimum performance for each user.
- **Compatibility** - With Natural Text you can dictate directly into virtually any windows application such as Corel, Word Perfect, Lotus Notes, Microsoft Exchange, Eudora Pro and many others.
- **Hands Free mouse control** - Move your mouse pointer with pin point accuracy, click buttons, and activate menus by simple voice commands.
- **Dictation Playback** - Listen to a recording of what you said before you change your mind or make a correction, in order to 'proof' your text.
- **Text to Speech** - Listen to your own documents or other files such as e-mail - your computer can read the selected text aloud in its own voice.



DRG001 Dragon Naturally Speaking Preferred **$319**

DRG002 Dragon Naturally Speaking Personal **$189**

Easy Tutor - Learn Windows 98

Manaccom SINCE 1986

The Easiest Way To Become Productive With Windows 98.

The latest in the award winning Easy Tutor range of CD based interactive tutorials.

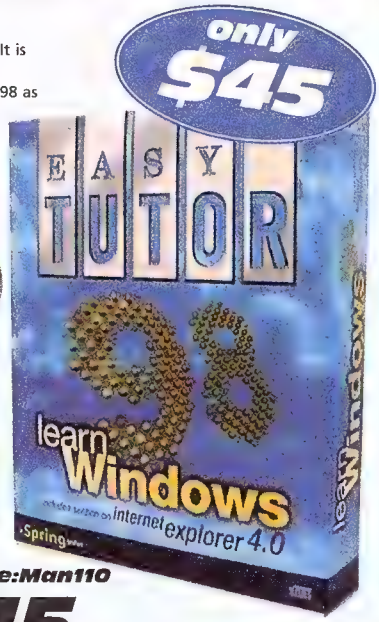
The student is provided with demonstrations, practice and revision at beginner, intermediate or proficient level. It is like having three courses on the one CD,

You can learn all about Windows 98 even if you are still running Windows 95. It is even a great way to evaluate 98 as exercises are simulated as though Windows 98 has been installed on your PC. Plus there is an Introduction To Explorer 4.0 included in the tutorial.

EASY TUTOR products use animated lessons, narration and extensive graphics to maintain a students interest. Learning becomes a pleasure rather than a chore!

"Build you own course" Professional versions also available for network based training suitable for enterprises or educational bodies.

NEW PRODUCT



Features:

- Course content Microsoft certified
- Self-paced learning for different learning abilities
- Cost effective training
- Pre and Post-course testing

Other titles include:

Man 100 Easy Tutor Learn Word 97	$45
Man 101 Easy Tutor Learn Excel 97	$45
Man 102 Easy Tutor Learn Outlook 97	$45
Man 103 Easy Tutor Learn PowerPoint 97	$45
Man 104 Easy Tutor Learn Access 97	$45

Stock Code:Man110

$45

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See page 2 for Price Pledge

Microsoft Office 97 Training

Learn fast with higher retention - Includes 6 Videos

To make the process even easier, ViaGrafix videos includes a learning disk. This disk contains the same data files that are used in the videos, saving you time as you work along on your computer. Simply rewind the video until you are comfortable with the material, an option not available with classes or seminars.

Includes Windows 98

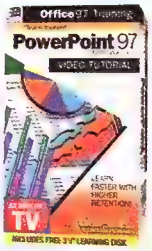
Includes:

- **Windows 95/98 (59 minutes)**
  Using menus/shortcut menus, multi-tasking, working with the Explorer, moving and copying/files and folders, placing programs in the start-up menu, installing a printer, installing/removing programs and much more.
- **Learning Word 97 (58 minutes)**
  Using shortcut keystrokes, using the over-type mode, animating text, using thesaurus, finding and replacing text, using text colour, applying font styles, grammar checking and more.
- **Learning Excel 97 (63 minutes)**
  Discussing workbooks/worksheets, selecting cells, formatting cells, changing column/row widths and heights, creating a workbook, using templates, creating a formula, too much to mention!
- **Learning Powerpoint 97 (72 minutes)**
  Viewing a slide show, entering data in a presentation, adding clip art to a slide, creating/editing a chart, creating speaker notes, using the pen option, using the slide master and lots more.
- **Learning Access 97 (72 minutes)**
  Viewing fundamental dbase components, creating a dbase, adding a table, changing field properties, filtering a table, creating a form, sorting records.
- **Learning Outlook 97 (55 minutes)**
  Outlook and mail groups, including an attachment, replying to a message, creating storage folders, using message tracking, using AutoSignature, viewing tracking results.

VIA073 ViaGrafix Office 97 Training **$129**

VIA050 **$29**

VIA051 **$29**



VIA052 **$29**

VIA053 **$29**

VIA054 **$29**

VIA074 **$29**

- *Teach the basics of Office 97 and Windows 98*
- *Typically 60 minutes running time of eachvideo*
- *Understand new concepts easier!*
- *Improve your retention up to 75%*
- *Enjoy learning*

MCSE NT4 Certificate

Interactive CD-ROM Tutorials

Essential if thinking of becoming a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer NT4

This series of interesting and effective CD-ROM tutorials, provides you with your own virtual classroom teacher along with hands-on tutoring covering all areas of NT4. Each CD is equivalent to 8 hours of instruction. This series of CD have been expertly designed to cover all essential areas of NT4 along with preparing you for becoming an MCSE. Just look at what each CD covers. Buy the complete the course and save over $180.

Features

- Want to gain a valuable computer qualification?
- Essential qualification for most computer engineering job
- Each CD is equivalent to 6-8 hours of training
- Purchase the complete sets and SAVE

VIA056 NT4 Complete Course - 12 CDs **$899**

Course Units Sold Separately:

VIA057 NT4 Networking Essentials Vol. ... **$89.95**
VIA058 NT4 Networking Essentials Vol 2 .. **$89.95**
VIA059 NT4 Enterprise Vol. 1 ..... **$89.95**
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VIA062 NT4 Enterprise Vol. 4 ..... **$89.95**
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VIA066 NT4 Workstation Vol. 1 ..... **$89.95**
VIA067 NT4 Workstation Vol. 2 ..... **$89.95**
VIA068 NT4 Workstation Vol. 3 ..... **$89.95**

Windows 98

Give yourself a head start with the new Windows 98

Choose a tutorial video right for you. With Learning Windows 98 - What's New, you will be taken through the new features from multi-tasking to using the Internet connectivity. The other video tutorials will introduce you to Windows 98 and take you right through to advanced features and networking.

Typically 60 minutes in length

VIA 069 Learning Windows 98 - What's New ... **$69.95**
VIA 070 Learning Windows 98 - Introduction... **$69.95**
VIA 071 Learning Windows 98 - Advanced **$69.95**
VIA 072 Learning Windows 98 - Networking.... **$69.95**

PowerDesk Utilities 98

Get more done in less time!

PowerDesk Utilities 98 is a complete, fully integrated set of desktop tools for Windows 95, 98 and NT which makes everything you do in Windows faster and easier.
Now you can eliminate Windows frustrations without the added headache and expense of a shelf-full of utilities. PowerDesk Utilities98 is a Windows file manager with a wide-ranging set of utilities that adds a quantum measure of functionality and ease to Windows 95, 98 and NT. The product features a powerful file manager that overcomes the deficiencies of Windows Explorer; built-in zip and unzip capabilities; and built-in file viewer to preview files instantly without the need to launch a separate utility. It also includes a robust file finder, a hard-drive space manager, an email attachment decoder, folder synchronization and comparison, and a broad spectrum of other tools that simplify, enhance, and expedite Windows operations.

STOCK CODE: POW003

TOP SELLING **$55.95**

What the Press are saying:
"PowerDesk is the one program that I simply must have running on my system" -
James E Powell, Windows Magazine, March 97
"...a must-have utility" - Windows Magazine, March 97
"An indispensable tool..." - *PC Magazine January 98*

ANY SUGGESTIONS?

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MasterClips Range

IMSI

Introducing the latest to the MasterClips Range: MasterClips 303,000!

Five complete sources for premium content each with its own specific applications. The MasterClips line of products now includes five premium clip art packages, with the introduction of MasterClips 303,000, MasterClips 202,000, MasterClips 150,000, MasterClips 75,000 or MasterClips 45,000 for the perfect package for any of your desktop publishing needs. MasterClips images are hand-selected to meet any home or business publishing need.

NEW PRODUCT

MasterClips Comparison Chart

Content	MasterClips 303,000	MasterClips 202,000	MasterClips 150,000	MasterClips 75,000	MasterClips 45,000
Vector Images	126,000	87,700	54,000	54,000	33,000
Dover	47,000	47,000	47,000	0	0
MasterPhotos	55,000	50,300	47,000	19,000	12,000
Web Art	54,800	18,100	1,400	0	0
MasterPhotos Objects	400	400	0	0	0
MasterFonts	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Sounds	4,600	500	500	500	500
Video & Animations	180	20	20	20	20
Browser	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Editor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3D Art	Yes	Yes			
	IMS117 ...**$135**	IMS104 ...**$129**	IMS103 ...**$105**	IMS102 ...**$69**	IMS101...**$45**

TurboCAD V5

IMSI

Announcing the new version of the award-winning TurboCAD!

TurboCAD V5 makes computer-aided design power and precision available to anyone. You will find lots of new and exciting features including handy setup wizards, tool tips and a Microsoft Office interface that will speed you through the design process. TurboCAD V5 delivers integrated 3D wireframe capabilities and voice enabled commands allowing you to draw by talking. Also includes raster to vector technology allowing you to convert scanned images into editable TurboCAD drawings, full AutoCAD compatibility, 12,000 CAD symbols and clip art, plus 1,000 editable house plans.

Features:
- Handy setup wizards
- 3D wireframe capabilities
- Voice-enabled commands
- Raster to vector technology
- Full AutoCAD compatibility
- 12,000 CAD symbols
- 1,000 editable house plans

IMS118 TurboCAD V5.....**$169**

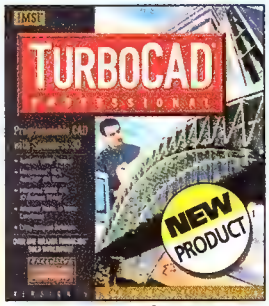
TurboCAD Pro V5

IMSI

A New Set of Tools for the CAD Professional

TurboCAD V5 makes computer-aided design power and precision available to anyone. You will find lots of new and exciting features including handy setup wizards, tool tips and a Microsoft Office interface that will speed you through the design process. TurboCAD V5 delivers integrated 3D wireframe capabilities and voice enabled commands allowing you to draw by talking. Also includes raster to vector technology allowing you to convert scanned images into editable TurboCAD drawings, full AutoCAD compatibility, 12,000 CAD symbols and clip art, plus 1,000 editable house plans.

Features:
- Fully integrated 2D & 3D tools with 3D CAD tools
- Over 250 precise & efficient design tools
- Multiple windows, views & layouts you can save
- Multilines with Arcs
- Embedded XREFS



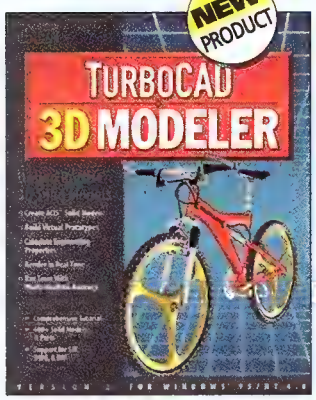
IMS119 TurboCAD Professional V5.....**$425**

TurboCAD 3D Modeler

IMSI

TurboCAD 3D Modeler is a 32-bit design tool that allows easy, accurate modeling of real-world objects in 3D. It combines a fully customisable interface with solid modeling technology, allowing you to conceptualise, construct and render true 3D prototypes. Learn and use powerful operations including 2D drafting and modeling, blending and photo-realistic rendering in one complete package. TurboCAD 3D Modeler delivers CAD precision and realistic solid modeling that is unavailable from any other 3D program in the marketplace.

Features:
- 32-bit design tool
- Customisable interface
- 2D drafting
- Photo-realistic rendering
- Solid modeling technologys



IMS044 TurboCAD 3D Modeler.....**$165**

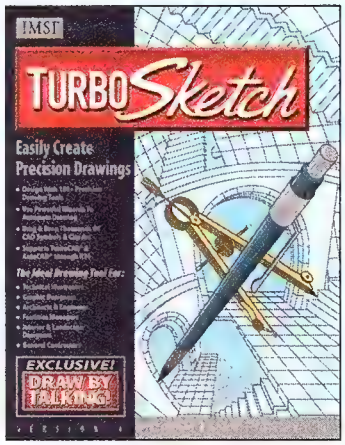
TurboSketch

Easily create precision drawings

TurboSketch delivers the precision of computer-aided design, with the ease and familiarity of a drawing program to anyone who needs to make accurate technical drawings. TurboSketch features speech recognition technology and drawing wizards to speed up the design process. TurboSketch is the easiest, most productive, precision drawing software on the market.

Features:
- Speech recognition
- Drawing wizards

IMSI



IMS120 TurboSketch.....**$119**

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For the cost of a local call! **Orderline 1300 300 003**

Open 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 3pm Saturday

VISA

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*See page 2 for Price Pledge

Corel's Complete Publishing Solution!

Corel has bought together a complete publishing solution with Corel Draw 8 and Corel Ventura 8. Both packages combine to offer a professional publishing solution for business and Design Houses.

Corel Draw 8 is the ideal solution for creating professional illustrations, graphics and when seamlessly integrated with Corel Ventura 8, you will have a powerful publishing tool and achieve professional results.

COR540 CorelDRAW Complete Publishing Solution **$1199**

CorelDRAW 8

Productivity, Power and Precision!

Exceed the boundaries of traditional design with CorelDRAW 8. Created for the professional illustrator, graphic artist and desktop publisher CorelDRAW 8 leaps ahead offering sophisticated features and tools required by professionals.
CorelDRAW 8 is a comprehensive 32-bit graphics suite designed for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0. Building on the strength of its award-winning predecessors, CorelDRAW 8 is feature rich and streamlined for optimum performance. This suite includes tools for illustration, page layout, painting, photo editing, and 3D modeling and rendering. Several utilities are included to provide support for scanning, tracing, OCR, font management, screen capture, OLE scripting and more. Completing the suite are over 40,000 clipart images, over 1,000 TrueType and Type 1 fonts, plus hundreds of photos, Web backgrounds, animated GIFs, templates and more.

CorelDRAW 8 includes:

- CorelDRAW 8
- Corel PHOTO-PAINT 8
- CorelDREAM 3D 8
- Corel OCR-TRACE 8
- Corel TEXTURE
- CorelSCAN
- Corel CAPTURE 8
- Corel SCRIPT Editor and Corel SCRIPT Dialog Editor
- Bitstream Font Navigator 3.0
- Corel Versions

New Features include:

- Streamlined Controls
- Intuitive Behaviour
- Enhanced Tools
- Fill/Outline and Color
- Improved Connectivity
- Powerful Internet Capabilities
- Enhanced Color Support
- Improved object placement
- Customizable Zoom
- IntelliMouse support
- Additional keyboard support with new hot-key combinations

COR268 CorelDRAW 8 U/G **$439**

COR267 CorelDRAW 8 ..... **$769**

CorelVentura 8

Powerful Publishing.

Professional Results

Powerful Publishing. Professional Results. Whether it's for paper, for the Internet or preparing documents to be converted to portable electronic files, Corel VENTURA 8 satisfies all your desktop publishing needs. With high performance and ease-of-use, this page layout and design application has enhanced features that save you time and money. Improved integration lets you move across applications seamlessly. Work on the same document as other users with unique multiuser access. Quickly manipulate your workspace to suit your needs with innovative usability features such as task-specific toolbars. And publish to the Internet easily with better-than-ever creation of HTML pages and hyperlinks to URLs, files, chapters and frames. Corel VENTURA 8-ideal for the professional!

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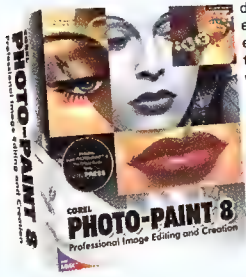
- Increase speed and use your system resources more effectively .
- Load files and scroll through your document faster.
- Apply bitmap effects directly / use industry-standard plug-ins in your publications.
- Tailor your work environment & increase productivity with the streamlined interface.
- Use enhanced formatting control to choose whether changes are applied to an individual object, such as a paragraph, or to all items sharing the same tag.
- Access commonly used features more readily with updated toolbars and property bars.
- Reduce the learning curve with a new consistent menu structure and tighter integration with other Corel graphics products and commonly used software.
- Publish any Corel VENTURA 8 file to paper or to the Web, or prepare it to be converted to a portable electronic file, with the click of a button.
- Create hyperlinks to chapters or files or use image maps with the new feature.
- Transform a database into a visually appealing catalog, report or Web document with the power of Corel DataBase Publisher and Corel VENTURA 8.

COR331 Corel Ventura 8 U/G **$479**

COR332 Corel Ventura 8 ..... **$879**

Corel PHOTO PAINT 8

Corel PHOTO-PAINT 8 delivers everything you need for state-of-the-art image correction, photo retouching and painting-all in one great package! Create stunning designs and special effects quickly and easily, and publish them to the Web with exceptional Internet graphics support. Bring your ideas to life with the extensive digital library of 1,500 photos, 1,200 clipart images, 750 floating objects and 300 fonts.

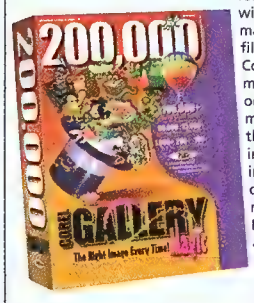


COR519 Corel PhotoPaint 8 U/G **$195**

COR518 Corel PhotoPaint 8 ..... **$609**

Corel Gallery Magic 200,000

Make every project special with Corel Gallery Magic 200,000, a collection of 200,000 images, including 105,000 clipart images, 80,000 photos and hundreds of fonts, animated GIFs, sounds, video clips and theme sets for the Web. Packed with a full-colour clipart manual, powerful visual file manager and more, Corel Gallery Magic makes it easy to stay organised. Search multiple libraries with the wizard-style search interface to find the image you need, then drag and drop it into most applications. Preview thumbnails and manipulate bitmap images using the Image Editor.

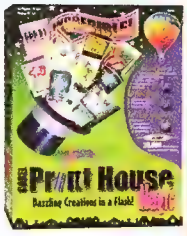


COR400 Corel Gallery Magic 200,000 ..... **$99**

Corel PrintHouse Magic Deluxe

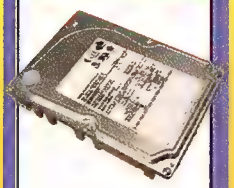
Creative Power!

Create sensational greeting cards, e-mail cards, calendars, banners, flyers, signs and more with ease using Corel Print House Magic Deluxe - an all-in-one graphics package! Manipulate thousands of fully customizable samples or create your own designs with the help of wizards and advanced drawing tools. Touch up or alter your favourite photographs and digital images using Corel PhotoHouse 2. Keep track of addresses and special events using Corel Family & Friends. With over 100,000 graphics, access to animated online greetings and free samples of specialty paper from Hewlett-Packard included in the box, unleashe your creative power!



COR525 Corel PrintHouse Magic Deluxe .. **$99**

MAXTOR Hard Drives



3.2 Gb EIDE Hard Drive
$329
MAX046

Amazing Value

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MAX047

8.4 Gb EIDE Hard Drive
$649
MAX048

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AutoCAD LT 97

The only CAD program that speaks fluent AutoCAD. AutoCAD LT 97 is the only low-cost, professional 2D CAD application that has 100% file compatibility with AutoCAD with powerful design capabilities.

AutoCAD LT 97 U/G
AUT101
$365

AutoCAD LT 97
AUT100
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Extensis Productivity Power for Creative Professionals

All PhotoShop plug-ins are compatible with PhotoShop 5

Extensis INTELLIHANCE 3.0

The intelligent way to take the guess work out of image enhancement.

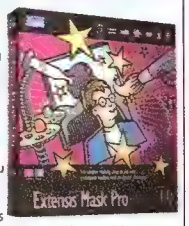
The "Make Better Button" just got better. Extensis Intellihance, the most powerful, affordable image enhancement filter available, is faster and more intelligent then ever. Intellihance intelligently makes improvements based on individual image needs. One click and you eliminate up to 12 Photoshop steps required for a professional image enhancement. Add the time-crunching power of Intellihance to your graphics toolbox.

Features
- Automatically enhance images based on their individual needs, either one at a time or in batches.
- Adjust any grayscale, Lab, RGB or CMYK image you can open in Photoshop.
- View and adjust images in a resizable, zoomable window that features a before & after preview.
- Powerful fine-tune adjustments, including a revolutionary new multi-channel histogram, luminance and saturation values, give you hands-on control.

EXT002 Extensis Intellihance 3.0 ..... **$185**

Extensis MASK PRO 1.0

Comprehensive masking tools for Adobe Photoshop.



Extensis Mask Pro is a powerful Adobe Photoshop plug-in that takes the pain out of creating image masks. Its innovative colour matching technology and elegant vector-based clipping paths slash the time it takes to create professional quality masks. Simply decide which colours you want to keep and which colours you want to drop. Then use Mask Pro's Magic Brush to isolate the image you want. The Magic Brush removes the drop colours you selected, leaving a perfect cutout every time. Mask Pro's powerful tools give you complete control over the masking process including colour selection thresholds, edge softness, brush sizes and more.

Features
- Create high quality prepress-ready images with smooth vector clipping paths for problem-free printing.
- Quickly and easily create cutouts for optimal web designs.
- Gain complete control over the masking process with keep/drop colour selections, edge softness, brush sizes, unlimited undo/redo and more.
- Zoom, pan and navigator window controls make it easy to move around images.

EXT003 Extensis Mask Pro **$469**

Extensis PHOTOFRAME 1.0

Create unlimited variations of professional frame and border effects

When designers need to get edgy, they get Extensis PhotoFrame. Flexible and fast, Extensis PhotoFrame is the best solution for creating professional-quality image frames and border effects in Adobe Photoshop. Instant beautifully-rendered effects from high-quality frames designed by professional artists. Set the opacity, color, blend mode and blur separately for the matte and frame. Combine up to three frames to build custom effects. Rotate to any degree. Work rapidly as the interactive preview reflects your every change. Expand your creative caliber with Extensis PhotoFrame.

Features
- Vital to the artistic arsenal of any designer creating image frames and border effects.
- Create an unlimited variety of border effects using combinations of professionally-designed frames.
- Real-time previews, interactive controls, background processing, multiple undo/redos.
- Imports frames from any Auto F/X Photo/Graphic Edges volume or any JPEG file.

EXT004 Extensis PhotoFrame **$235**

Extensis PORTFOLIO 3.0

The world's leading visual database for all your digital media.

Extensis Portfolio, formerly named Fetch, introduces its new name and a newly expanded set of powerful tools for managing digital content. You will view, organise, manage, select, share and use digital content like never before. Build visual catalogues automatically with detailed reference information and thumbnail images. Organise volumes of digital media, including images, sounds, movies and whole documents. Regardless of application, effortlessly catalogue and then retrieve any media, visually or by a keyword. Stay in sync, share your catalogues over networks and across platforms.

Features
- Portfolio media catalogues are totally cross-platform! Whether you use Mac or Windows, you can easily access and share catalogues across platforms.
- More than 30 file translators let you preview media files even if those files don't have embedded thumbnails.
- Assign keywords list to multiple files with a single mouse click.
- Share media catalogues over a network, ensuring everyone is working from the same files.

EXT005 Extensis Portfolio 3.0 ..... **$235**

Extensis PREFLIGHT DESIGNER 1.0

The easy-to-use document inspection and collection tool for designers.

Preflight Designer, created specifically for designers to solve problems before they arise, allows you to illiminate rework by delivering complete, accurate files. Preflight Designer finds your RGB images that must be converted to CMYK before printing, as well as any low resolution images still remaining in your document. Once your document has been automatically inspected, Preflight Designer collects all the elements necessary to print, including screen and printer fonts, all your graphics, and even embedded fonts and graphics.

Features
- Speed up design project turn-around with error-free QuarkXPress output files
- Eliminate wasted time and money spent on bad film
- Create custom output instructions based on each project's unique requirements
- Automatically collect every essential document file for flawless print jobs
- With Preflight Pro, introduces a totally integrated solution from Extensis for designers and prepress specialists

EXT008 Extensis Preflight Designer **$185**

Extensis QX-TOOLS 2.0

Powerful XTensions unleash QuarkXPress.

Extensis QX-Tools 2.0 is the most complete collection of award-winning XTensions available for QuarkXPress. Fifteen powerful XTensions combine to soup up QuarkXPress beyond belief, letting you work faster, easier, and more efficiently than ever before. Create and work in layers as you would in other graphic applications. Easily navigate within a document via page thumbnails. Fine tune the attributes of characters, paragraphs, tabs, objects, and rules all within a single dialog box. Experts agree: Extensis QX-Tools boosts your productivity so much, you'll wonder how you ever survived without it.

Features
- Quickly resize groups of graphics, lines, or text simultaneously.
- Search and replace attributes of QuarkXPress objects - text boxes, picture boxes, colors, rules, style sheets and more!
- Fine tune character, paragraph, box and rule properties all within a single dialog box.
- Easily navigate a document among thumbnails of pages.
- Many more XTensions included!

EXT009 Extensis QX Tools 2.0 ..... **$189**

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Collections of award-winning software for QuarkXPress or Adobe Photoshop users offer unsurpassed productivity at incredible savings.

The Extensis PowerSuites for QuarkXPress and Adobe Photoshop each contain three Extensis PowerSuites, packaged together at an affordable price. Extensis PowerSuites enable customers to use a wide range of compatible tools designed to meet their unique requirements and improve their productivity, while saving significantly off the retail price.

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- Extensis Intellihance 3.0
- Extensis Portfolio 3.0

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Extensis PowerSuite for QuarkXPress

Time crunching, effects building, file inspection and collection productivity tools every QuarkXPress user must have.
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- Extensis QX-Tools 2.0
- Extensis Preflight Designer 1.0

EXT007 PowerSuite for QuarkXPress **$375**

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*See page 2 for Price Pledge

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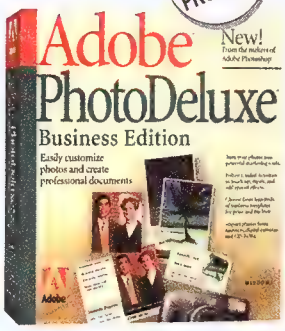


Adobe PhotoDeluxe Business Edition software is the first photo-editing sales and marketing software solution created specifically with the small business customer in mind. It is a complete photo-centric package of smart productivity and creativity tools that are fully integrated with the Internet.

PhotoDeluxe Business Edition comes with hundreds of photo projects, professionally-designed templates, special effects, sample photos, clip art and Adobe Connectables a feature unique to Adobe software - which allows users to regularly access new projects, templates, plug-ins and visual content via the Web.

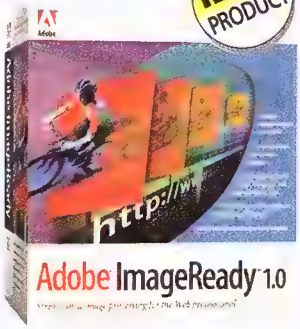
ADO142 Adobe PhotoDeluxe for Business (Win) **$169**

Adobe ImageReady 1.0

Everything you need to prepare images for the Web

For Windows and Mac

NEW PRODUCT



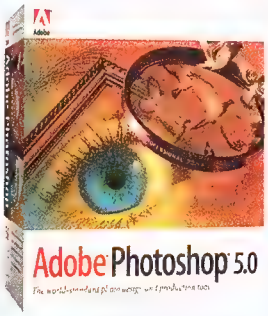
Adobe ImageReady software for Windows or Macintosh is the Web professional's powerhouse with every-thing you need to prepare images and graphics for the Web faster. Real-time image compression lets you instantly compare the effects of any optimization setting with the original image, and view resulting file sizes and download times. Control color, add editable text, and correct mistakes quickly with Multiple Undo. Even create image maps and attention-grabbing, layer-based animated GIF files that can be easily edited. A built-in core set of Adobe Photoshop tools lets you edit images as you prepare them for the Web, or easily jump back and forth between ImageReady and Photoshop programs. And to save you even more time, innovative

ADO143 Image Ready 1.0 (Win) **$299**

ADO144 Image Ready 1.0 (Mac) **$299**

Adobe Photoshop 5.0

The New World Standard Photo Design and Production Tool!



Adobe Photoshop 5.0, the latest version of Adobe's award-winning image-editing software, offers something for everyone. Longtime Photoshop users will be delighted to find their four most requested features in one elegant upgrade: multiple levels of undo and redo, editable text with character-level formatting, flexible and precise colour management controls, and built-in support for spot-colour channels.

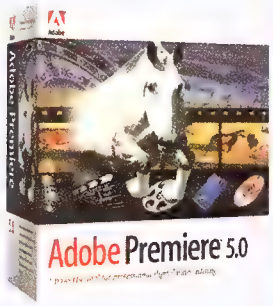
In addition, Photoshop 5.0 software delivers dozens of new features and enhancements that improve the photo design and production process, making this powerful image-editing tool that much more versatile for any user.

ADO121 Adobe Photoshop 5.0 u/g **$329**

ADO120 Adobe Photoshop 5.0 ..... **$1099**

Adobe Premiere 5.0

Designed for video Professionals! ForPower Macintosh, Windows 95, and Windows NT 4.0.



Adobe Premiere 5.0 software offers an elegant interface with superb editing control for producing high-quality movies for video, multimedia, or the Web. Use the professional controls in the Monitor window to mark source clips, and play back your edited program. Add up to 99 video and 99 audio tracks. Then target, hide, display, and edit the content of those tracks with ease. Perform precise three-point edits and other high-end editing tasks.

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ADO134 Adobe Premiere 5.0 (Win) **$949**

ADO131 Adobe Premiere 5.0 u/g (Win) **$359**

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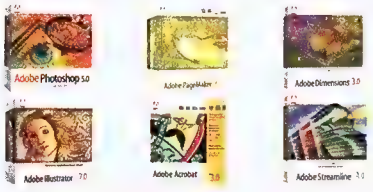

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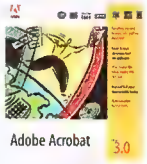
ADO130 Win **$1835**

ADO131 Publishing Collection (MAC)... **$1835**

Adobe Acrobat 3.0



Adobe Acrobat 3.0 software is the fastest way to publish any document on your corporate Intranet, the Web,or CD-ROM. Acrobat 3.0 gives you everything you need to create & distribute electronic documents that can be searched, hypertext linked and even animated.

ADO029 Adobe Acrobat 3.0..... **$335**

The easy yet powerful 3D rendering tool.

ADO070 Adobe Dimensions 3.0 . . . **$249**

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ADO047 Adobe Illustrator 7.0 . . . . **$569**

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As a bonus there are 50 pre designed web sites... just change the text, drop in your logo and you have a pro website.

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3D Animation

An amazing suite of 3D animation and design tools for multimedia presentations, desktop" publishing and web page enhancement. Ideal for both the beginner and professional.

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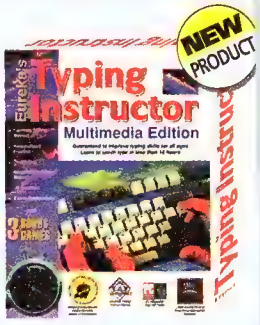
3. World VisionsPowerful and yet easy to use interactive and dynamic 3D world builder using VRML.
   No programming knowledge is required. Object Orientated.
4. Over 14,000 images which includes 3D buttons, animations, photos, fonts plus more.

NOD006 3D Animation **$49.95**

Typing Instructor

AWARD WINNING

Multi award winning interactive program!



Learn to touch type in less then 10 hours. Typing Instructor is a beautifully presented multimedia program that guides you through the numerous lessons utilising certified typing methods. Progress reports can be printed or viewed on screen. Strengths and weaknesses by hand, finger or letter are displayed using enhanced graphics.

Other features:
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2. Interactive exercises that help you relax.
3. Hand positioning, proper posture and other strategies to improve speed and accuracy.
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5. 3 awesome 3D games that makes learning to type fun.

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Complete and comprehensive multimedia suite.

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3. Draw! - Powerful drawing illustration program incorporates over 40 drawing features.
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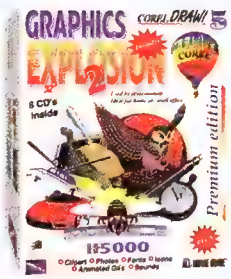
   (ii) Morphing Editor
   (iii) Audio Editor
   (iv) Video Editor
   (v) Video Capture
   (vi) Screen Capture
   (vii) File Converter (22 file formats)
   (viii) Album Creator

NOD007 MultiMedia Creator **$49.95**

Graphics Explosion 2



Graphics Explosion 2

The absolute best value software of the year one of the world's most powerful desktop publishers has been added to Eureka's 115,000 images to create the ultimate desktop publishing program.

Includes:
1. 115,000 Images - 36,000 vector images, 4,000 fonts, 37,000 photos plus much more.
2. CorelDRAW! 5 features:
   (i) Corel Photo Paint™
   (v) Corel Trace™
   (ii) Corel Capture™
   (vi) Corel Move™
   (iii) CorelDRAW™
   (vii) Corel Show™
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Unbelievably Affordable

FREE! Corel All Movie Guide - The world's largest Multimedia movie guide with over 90,000 references.

NOD004 Graphics Explosion . . **$89.95**

640,000 Images

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THE WORLD'S LARGEST

The largest collection in the world. Ideal for both the Mac & IBM.

Incorporates a powerful and concise images browser that allows you to locate the desired images fast. The need to fumble through thick manuals and locate images is eliminated. Drag and drop the image to the clipboard or working folder, evoke the image editor, convert the image to any of the
22 different file formats plus much much more.

75,000 professional quality vector images	12,000 icons
60,000 digital photographs	350,000 web objects
11,000 java buttons	30,000 backgrounds
6,000 music & sound Fx	Plus much more
6,000 fonts	
90,000 animated gifs	

NOD009 Eureka's 640,000 Images **$149.95**

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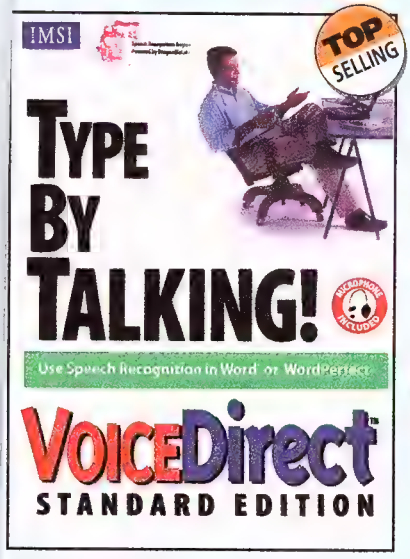
The VoiceDirect Family

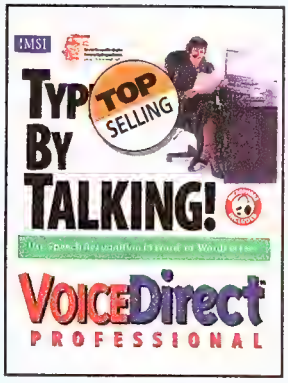
The IMSI VoiceDirect Family Features two discrete speech recognition software products with microphone, for use with virtually any Windows applications:



VoiceDirect Standard Edition:

VoiceDirect Standard edition is discrete speech recognition software for people who want to write, type and edit reports by voice instead of typing. Dictate directly into Word or WordPerfect. Includes a 120,000 word total vocabulary.

IMS110 VoiceDirect Standard Edition **$79.95**



VoiceDirect Professional:

VoiceDirect professional is discrete speech recognition software powered by voice allowing you to dictate into Word, WordPerfect, Powerpoint Excel Internet Explorer and more. Includes a 120,000 word total vocabulary.

VoiceDirect Advantages over Competitors:

- Powered by DragonDictate, the speech recognition leader since '82
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- Ability to create continuous speech macros with variable words
- 4,500 Macros included in system
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Designed for Microsoft Windows'95

IMS111 VoiceDirect Professional Edition **$129**

NetAccelerator V2

NetAccelerator V2 speeds you through more of your favourite pages by maximising the efficiency of our modem, browser and internet connection.
NetAccelerator V2 loads pages before you ever choose a link an pre-fetches graphics and text, so they are ready for your next click. With new features like Automatic Browser Recognition, and access through the System Tray, NetAccelerator V2 is even easier to use.
It also comes with two powerful utilities:

1. Jackhammer - automatically accesses busy sites & FTP servers in the background.
2. InnocuLAN - An AntiVirus which provides superior protection against viruses from any source.

Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

NEW PRODUCT

IMS127 NetAccelerator V2 ..... **$49**

UpdateNow!

Get the latest software with a quick click! UpdateNow! actually saves you time by automatically locating, downloading, and installing the most current software for your PC. UpdateNow! also links you to vendors' Year 2000 Compliance statements. UpdateNow! is a subscription-based service that utilises the Internet to connect you to the UpdateNow! database. You can purchase a subscription directly from the UpdateNow! Web site and use your browser to scan and update your PC, or you can purchase the UpdateNow! Client, which includes a 1-year subscription to the UpdateNow! service.

Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

NEW PRODUCT

IMS125 UpdateNow! **$49**

WinDelete Deluxe

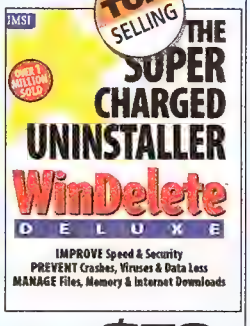
Includes Internet Management & Full Virus Protection

WinDelete Deluxe includes WinDelete 97 plus 6 powerful utilities

WinDelete Deluxe lets you make the most of your PC's disk space - safely stripping away unwanted debris and replacing it with performance enhancing utilities. WinDelete Deluxe includes WinDelete 97 plus 6 powerful utilities. From anti-virus to file encryption, back-up to tune-up, WinDelete Deluxe gives you powerful, practical utilities and the only complete uninstaller! Safely speeds PC performance with WinDelete Deluxe, the all around utility solution.

Features Include:

- Disaster Recovery
- Encryption Security
- File Compression
- Prevent Window crashes and system lock-ups automatically

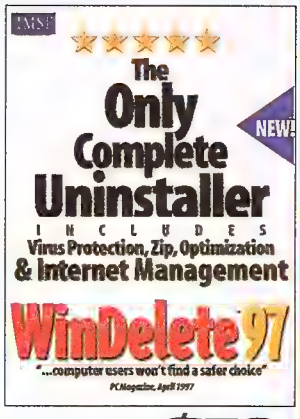


Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

IMS113 WinDelete Deluxe **$79**

WinDelete 97
A Complete Uninstaller

Your system performs at its peak when it has plenty of disk space to use. WinDelete 97 is the safest and most effective uninstaller that can tell the difference between the garbage and the critical information on your computer's hard drive. It works with Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0. WinDelete 97 is the most efficient way to manage your system. Also includes three powerful utilities: full virus efficient way to manage your system. Also includes three powerful utilities: full virus protection, a zip utility, and a Windows 95 benchmarking and optimisation tool.



Designed for Microsoft Windows'95

IMS051 WinDelete 97 ..... **$59**

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DTM001

$89

CD Phone Directory

Look up Business & Residences Australia Wide

DTM011

$19

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Dr Solomon's Anti-Virus Deluxe

FULL-STRENGTH, 100% ANTI-VIRUS PROTECTION.

Includes 12 Months FREE Updates

Dr Solomon's Anti-Virus is the only anti-virus product available in Australia that is able to automatically detect and eliminate the over 19,000+ known viruses that are out there, ready to attack your PC. 24 hour, 7 day technical support and on-line upgrades for killing new viruses it's no wonder Dr Solomon's is trusted by over 3 million people worldwide. It's the world's most advanced, trusted and widely used anti-virus program.

** Computer viruses are increasing at the rate of 300+ per month.*

Features

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- Compressed File Scanning – scans inside more compression file formats than any other anti-virus product, and scans recursively inside multiple nested layers of compressed and archived files.
- New improved NetGuard technology provides advanced protection against viruses transmitted across the internet.
- Online Updates – Dr Solomon's Anti-Virus Deluxe's Automatic Protection Plan delivers a new product monthly with updated scanning technology and virus signatures to ensure comprehensive protection against the 300+ new viruses discovered every month.
- New Interface – a new intuitive interface makes Dr Solomon's Anti-Virus Deluxe one of the easiest ways to protect users from computer virus attacks.
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- Money-Back Guarantee. Dr Solomon's Software is so confident that it offers better virus protection than Norton, McAfee, IBM, PC-cillin or VET, it stands behind its product with a money-back guarantee.
- FREE, unlimited 24-hour virus emergency support with one of its technical experts on the phone and by e-mail.

Dr Solomons Anti-Virus beats MacAfee and Symantec with 100% detection in Virus bulletin Tests – February 10, 1998

NIT012 Dr Solomon's Anti-Virus Deluxe **$89.95**

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The Ultimate Windows crash protection

- STOP WINDOWS CRASHING WITH RAMGATE GOLD
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- GURANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK
- FREE UNLIMITED TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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RamGate Gold offers new levels of power and protection. RamGate Gold re-packs the memory heap each time a RamGate Gold configured application is launched. Additionally RamGate Gold builds a protective memory shell around each application, further enhancing the protection against memory conflicts with other applications and even Windows itself. RamGate Gold also improves stability by ensuring that only one instance of any application is opened.

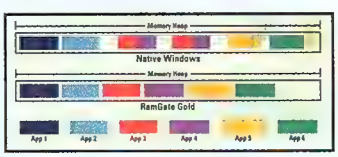
How RamGate Gold Works

Upon initialisation, RamGate Gold will pack the memory heap, ensuring that the maximum contiguous free block is created, similar to the manner in which a hard disk is "defraged". When requests for memory and resources are made, RamGate Gold ensures that these requests are met with a single block. If there is no single block large enough to allocate, but the total of free memory and resources is sufficient to run the application, RamGate Gold will again pack the memory heap so as to enable the allocation of a single block. If there is insufficient memory or resources to launch the application, the standard Windows "Out of Memory" message will appear. Without RamGate Gold, a system crash will almost certainly occur.

Additionally, RamGate Gold will re-pack the memory heap each time a RamGate Gold configured application is launched. Further protection is secured as RamGate Gold builds a small buffer zone into the applications request for memory and resources. It achieves this by intercepting the application's memory and resource request and adding a small percentage to it. The allocation of a memory buffer zone creates a protective shell around each application and allows for the opening of many more child Windows (files). This further reduces the likelihood of memory conflicts and resulting GPFs and Illegal Operations.

Features

- Allows system resources to be utilised down to 0% free without an increase in the number of GPFs or Illegal Operations.
- PC performance is not impaired as free system resources fall below 35%. Typically, this is impossible to achieve in Windows.
- With RamGate Gold free system resources are stabilised, allowing the user to safely open many more applications.
- No Windows system files are changed or modified making RamGate Gold ideal for networks.
- RamGate Gold does not replace or modify any Windows files or application files.
- RamGate Gold "Defrags" the FAT, RAM and Virtual Memory



- Protect Against GPFs
- Improve Stability
- Prevent Loss of Data
- Windows NT, 95 and 3.1x
- Australian Business Software of the Year

AUS518 RamGate Gold **$89.95**

AUS118 RamGate **$59.95**

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Norton AntiVirus Gold Edition

100% Detection & Removal*

Norton AntiVirus is the virus protection of choice for over 94% of Fortune 500 companies.

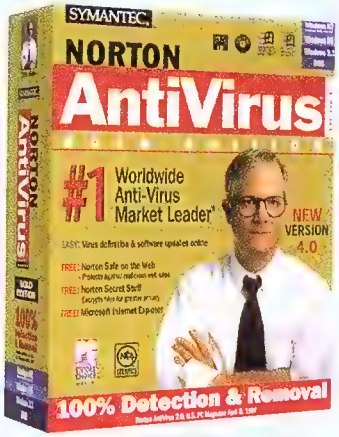
Whenever you are on the Internet or sharing files via floppy disk or across a network, you run the risk of virus infection. Automatic real-time protection monitors all potential sources of infection. Just load it and forget it. It's that easy.

LiveUpdate

Download current virus definitions free from the Symantec Web site with one click. Schedule future sessions to run automatically. LiveUpdate email also alerts you when new virus definitions are posted from SARC.

Support Service

Symantec's anti-virus products are products are backed by quality support service. Virus information and updates can be obtained by contacting your local Symantec FTP site, Website or BBS via Internet, America Online, Compuserve or Microsoft Network.



Academic pricing available

PC MAGAZINE *

SYMANTEC

NOR074 Norton AntiVirus Gold..... **$89**

Norton Utilities Gold Edition

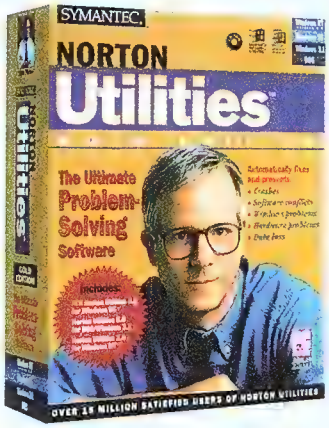
TOP SELLING

Unrivaled problem -solving power Unrivaled Control!

Proving again there's no substitute for experience, now Norton introduces the most powerful set of utilities ever created.

Key Features:

- The #1 problem-solving software for over fifteen years
- The industry leader in detecting, repairing and preventing major and minor computer problems
- Optimises your computer to run at peak efficiency
- Detects Windows problems in the background and provides intelligent repair
- Prevent crashes and screen freezes three times as effectively as any competing product
- Detects viruses and repairs infected files
- Lets you customise operations, or set Norton Utilities to work continuously
- Downloads the latest application patches and drivers over the Internet.



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Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

SYMANTEC

NOR077 Norton Utilities Gold Edition..... **$109**

Norton CrashGuard Deluxe

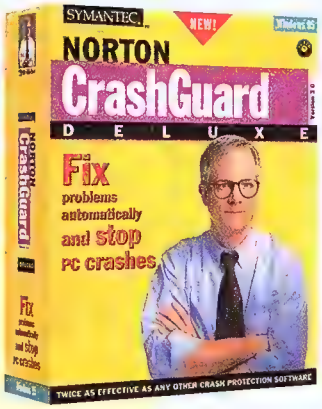
Automatic problem solving with twice the crash protection.

NEW PRODUCT

Norton Crashguard Deluxe is twice as effective at crash protection and recovery than any other software. Maintenance, protection and updating your system with the least amount of frustration. Automatic checkups keep your system running smoothly. With Norton Crashguard Deluxe your system will get the attention it needs so it's free from useless files and disks are optimised for performance.

Features

- Automatically protects you against PC crashes and screen freezes
- Detects and solves software problems behind the scenes, without slowing your system
- Uses award-winning Norton technology to find and solve your disk problems
- Updates your installed software to reduce system problems and keep it running smoothly. Includes LiveUpdate Pro. It can log onto the Internet to find updates or patches your system needs.
- Scans, detects and removes viruses from you system



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PC MAGAZINE

Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

SYMANTEC

NOR079 Norton CrashGuard Deluxe..... **$85**

Norton Uninstall Deluxe

Norton Uninstall Deluxe for Windows 95/ Windows NT 4.0

NEW PRODUCT

Norton Uninstall Deluxe is the safest way to make changes on any Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0 system, including both removing and adding programs and files.

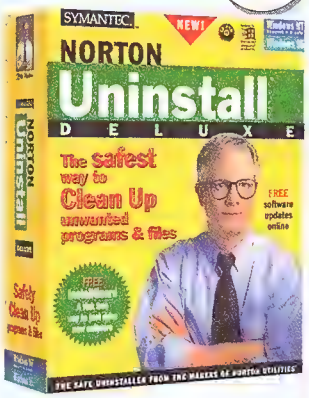
Key Features:

InstallGuard — unique to Norton Uninstall Deluxe - enables you to remove the last installation and return your system to its original state. This feature gives users a risk-free test drive for any new installation.

SafetyScan ensures accurate knowledge of your system and configuration for a safe Remove, Move, Copy and Store.

System Monitor provides the ability to monitor installations so you can safely and thoroughly remove them with InstallGuard if you encounter any problems.

Folder Selection — unique to Norton Uninstall Deluxe - allows you to Remove,Move, Copy and Store by sub folders, not just application group, application or file. It's especially easy to remove suite components, or data files that are stored in a folder within an application group



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Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

SYMANTEC

NOR072 Norton Uninstall Deluxe **$60**

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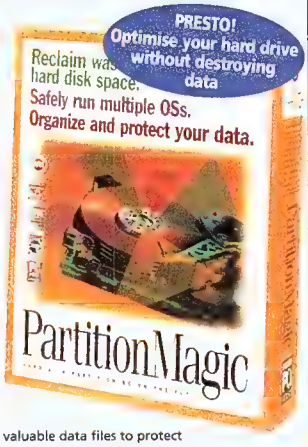
Reclaim up to 40% of your hard disk & organise your hard drive!



Reclaim Wasted Disk Space

Everyone wants to get the most they can out of their hard disk. But, up to 40 percent of your hard disk may be totally wasted due to inefficient storage methods. PartitionMagic 3.0 increases your usable disk space by shrinking large FAT partitions and restructuring cluster sizes to reclaim up to hundreds of megabytes of lost disk space.

Safely Run Multiple OS's

PartitionMagic 3.0 makes it easy to run multiple operating systems on the same machine without compatibility problems. Explore the new world of Windows 95 or NT while still relying on the security of your current operating system. And PartitionMagic 3.0 includes Boot Manager from IBM, making it easy to select an operating system every time you boot your computer.

Organise and Protect Data

Create a physically separate partition for your valuable data files to protect them from potentially unstable applications. This simplifies backups, especially to devices like ZIP™ drives. And with the transport feature of Uninstaller™, PartitionMagic 3.0 lets you easily move applications from one partition to another with their files and operating system settings in place.

POW022 PartitionMagic 3.0 ..... **$105**
AUS228 PartitionMagic 3.0 Upgrade **$59**

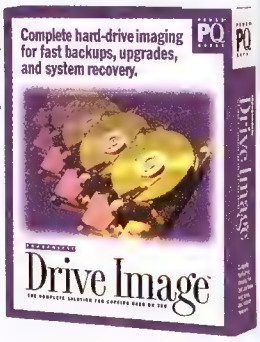
Drive Image

No more risks or hassles, Quick back-ups,and complete system recovery. Fast and easy upgrades

NEW VERSION

Drive Image is the complete hard-drive imaging solution for hard-drive back-ups, upgrades, and data recovery. Drive Image lets you easily create a compressed image of file of an individual partition or an entire hard drive. This file can be stored on a network, JAZ, ZIP, CD-ROM, or tape drive an then downloaded to make quick work of backups, disaster recovery, or upgrading to a new, larger capacity hard drive. With Drive Image, image files can be downloaded to drives of the same size or resized to fit drives for a different size and geometry for maximum flexibility.

Drive Images is the fast and easy way to backup recover, or upgrade your hard drive. Using patent-pending SmartSector technology (which copies only used sectors), you can quickly create and store a compressed image file of an entire hard drive, or individual partitions of a hard drive, on a network or other storage devices. Full system recovers is as easy as downloading the image file from storage. If you are upgrading to a new hard drive, the contents of your hard drive can be automatically copied and proportionately resized, saving you hours of re-installation time.



Features:

- Copy the entire contents of one drive to another
- Copy individual partitions or entire drives
- Create and restore hard-drive image files
- Create and store hard-drive image files for backup, upgrades and system recovery
- Change partition size when copying from source to destination

CHK003 Drive Image **$105**
CHK005 Drive Image v2 Upgrade **$59**
CHK004 Drive Image Pro **$1199**

ServerMagic

POWER PQ QUEST

Ever wanted to enlarge the DOS or NetWare partition on your server? With ServerMagic, it's not only possible, it's EASY!

Upgrading your server can be a long, tedious process even for the most experienced network professional. Worst of all, backing up and restoring the data on your hard drive means that your network may be down for hours or even days. Fortunately, now there's ServerMagic from PowerQuest.

ServerMagic for NetWare is an easy-to-use utility for copying your server's old drive to a new drive and modifying the server's partitions on the fly. With a few simple steps your server's old hard drive can be automatically copied to your new one without losing a single trustee right, NDS setting or byte of data. And once it is copied, ServerMagic allows you to modify not only your NetWare partition, but all of your other partition types as well. With ServerMagic, you can upgrade your server and modify your server's partitions in just minutes saving you time, money and frustration.

Fast and Easy
* ServerMagic makes it a snap to expand partitions and upgrade your server's hard drives.
* ServerMagic copies an entire NetWare partition directly from one hard drive to another using SmartSector technology.
* ServerMagic moves and enlarges NetWare and DOS partitions on the fly.

Affordable and Guaranteed
* ServerMagic is an affordable, hassle-free server solution.
* Per-server and per-technician license options available.

Complete
* ServerMagic is a complete network hard-drive solution designed to reduce the time spent maintaining and upgrading your server.
* SmartSector technology dramatically speeds up the process of copying partitions because it copies only those sectors containing data.
* ServerMagic runs as an NLM, compatible with NetWare-related drivers and server technology, including SCSI and IDE drive support.
* Functions with mirroring, duplexing and RAID systems.

Safe
* ServerMagic allows you to change partitions and transfer data without any hassle or risk to your data.

Stock Code: CHK008
$1995

CHK009 ServerMagic Technical **$4595**

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VET ANTI-VIRUS

Year 2000 compliant

Virus Protection For All Platforms

Essential Protection

Virus protection has never been as essential as it is today. New viruses are continuing to appear at an ever-increasing rate and new types of viruses - for instance Word macro viruses - regularly take the PC World by surprise. The internet, intranets, networks, Email, shared disks and shared PCs all enable viruses to spread. Vet Anti-Virus Software provides you with the protection you need for your system, whether it is a stand-alone PC or a complex network of PCs in an organisation.

VET PREMIUM

This combines all the advantages of Vet Net Surfer with the additional benefit of mailed quarterly upgrades - delivered to your home or office. The choice is yours - Vet Net Surfer with on-line upgrades, or Vet Premium with on-line and mailed upgrades. Both offer complete virus protection for you PC.

- Unlimited phone and email support
- Unlimited access to upgrades on-line
- Upgrades mailed quarterly direct to you

VET007 Vet Premium **$99**

VET006 Vet Net Surfer (no mailed updates) **$85**

CORPORATE

Complete virus protection for your server and workstations all in one product. You will receive all the benefits of a multiple workstation license together with protection for the heart of your network. Vet Corporate is available for 1 server - choose from either NetWare or NT Server - and for 10, 25, 50, 100 and 200 PCs, for Windows 3.x, Windows 95 and Windows NT Workstation.

VET013 Vet Corporate 10 user & server **$899**

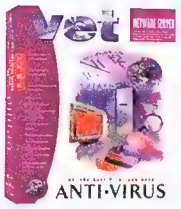
VET014 Vet Corporate 25 user & server **$1329**

VET015 Vet Corporate 50 user & server **$1699**

The choice of Australian Businesses

NETWARE or NT SERVER

Year 2000 compliant



WINDOWS 98 COMPATIBLE

This is a server specific product offering protection which is simple to install and use. It offers three modes of operation - a periodic scanner for pre-schedule virus checks, an "On Demand" scanner which can be initiated at any time if a virus is suspected, and automatic, or "On-Access" checking so that users are protected without having to initiate a scan. Each option is highly configurable giving the administrator flexibility to set it up to suit their conditions and system.

- Unlimited phone and email support
- Unlimited access to upgrades on-line
- Upgrades mailed quarterly direct to you

VET008 Vet Netware Server **$529**

VET009 Vet NT Server **$529**

ENTERPRISE

Protect your business PCs with the Vet Enterprise license allowing you to install Vet onto multiple PCs, ensuring that all possible avenues for virus invasion are blocked. Vet Enterprise is available for 2, 5 and 10 PCs. If you have a larger quantity of PCs, please talk to us, we are able to supply other quantities to order to suit your needs.

VET010 Vet Enterprise 2 PCs **$149**

VET011 Vet Enterprise 5 PCs **$259**

VET012 Vet Enterprise 10 PCs **$449**

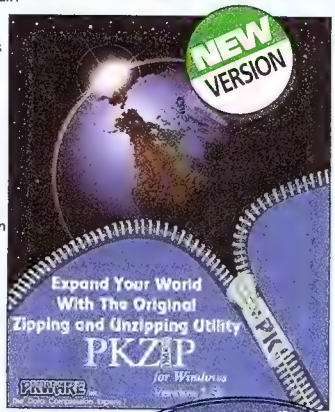
PKZip

The Original Compression Program v2.6

PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE

The growth of the Internet and the increased use of World Wide Web browsers are creating a greater need to compress data files. Saving disk space and saving on-line phone charges are big benefits of compressing data files with PKZIP.

PKZip 2.6 has been determined by PC Magazine Editor's Choice (03/98), as the best compression utility. "All the programs reviewed here will get the job done, but PKZIP delivered the best combinations of features".



PKZIP compresses files on average 50-70% with many large text and database files compressing well over 90%. PKZIP's simple point-and-click interface lets you easily compress one file or all files on an entire hard drive and store them in the .ZIP file. PKZip 2.6 has the added feature of being able to create self-extracting files that span multiple diskettes. PKWARE provides the best and fastest data compression technology on the market.

Using PKWARE patented compression technology, PKZIP combines the best and fastest compression found in PKZIP with ease-of-use of a Windows program. PKZIP for Windows is compatible with Windows 95, Windows NT, Windows 3.1z and with .ZIP files created on other PKZIP platforms. Other platforms include DOS, OS/2 and OpenVMS for VAX and Alpha.

Use PKZIP Whenever You Are:

At Home - The Internet contains many .ZIP files you can access through a World Wide Web browser. PKZIP also lets you archive files such as the digitized family photo album or annual budget in .ZIP files, saving you space on your hard drive.

On the Road - Use .ZIP files when sending email, storing presentations, or transferring files between your office PC and your laptop.

At the Office - Network and system administrators save space on their servers and reduce traffic over the Intranet or corporate network using .ZIP files.

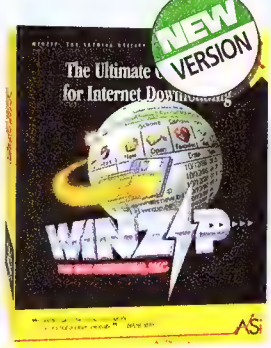
Compress your files by as much as 90%.

WIN109 PKZip v2.6 ..... **$69**

WinZip

The Ultimate Companion for Internet Downloading

"Probably one of the wisest investments a savvy windows user can make"



WinZip brings you the convenience of Windows to the use of ZIP files without requiring PKZIP and PKUNZIP. It features intuitive point-and-click drag-and-drop interface for viewing, running, extracting, adding, deleting, and testing files ZIP, LZH, ARJ, and ARC files.

The Zip Advantage:

Zipping safely compresses the data in your files, so that your files then occupy less space, allowing you to sped and save more! "Zipping reduces the size of files, while "Unzipping" restores the files to their original form, completely unchanged.

Internet Surfers:

WinZip makes it ieasy for you to access almost all of the compressed files you download for the Internet. WindZip features built-in support for Zip, TAR, gzip, Unix Compress, UUENCODE, BinHex, and MIME files.

Key Features

* With the easy to use tool bar you have the convenience of Windows when Zipping
* Built-in PKZIP-compatible ZIP and UNZIP (PKZIP and PKUNZIP are not required)
* Built-in support for the popular Internet file format TAR, gzip, Unix compress, Uuencode, Xxencoder, HinHex, and MIME
* Tight integration with the Windows 95 and Windows NT shell
* Simplify file distribution by making files that unzip themselves
* Optional WinZip Wizard Interface
* Works with ARJ, ARC, and LZH files
* Optional virus scanning support
* Supports Windows 3.1, 95, and NT
* 32 and 16 Bit versions included.

The Archive Utility for Windows

WIN108 WinZip **$69**

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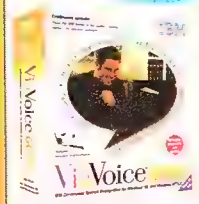
IBM Via Voice Gold

The ultimate productivity tool for your PC, Via Voice Gold gives you the power to create documents and control your PC by speaking naturally to your computer.

You talk, it types!



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Guard Dog Deluxe

The complete Internet Privacy and Security Solution

Protects your Internet Privacy and Security...Automatically!
Guard Dog is the only complete privacy, security, and anti-virus solution! Guard Dog builds a personal "firewall" around your PC which keeps your information safe. Web sites you visit may plant electronic tags, called 'cookies', on your PC to access your browsing habits. Guard Dog helps you decide what cookies to accept or reject, allowing you to control who has access to your browsing patterns. Small programs (Java applets or ActiveX controls) can silently enter you hard drive form Web pages you visit. Guard Dog blocks these programs form accessing your personal records or deleting critical files. Because downloaded programs and e-mail attachments may contain deadly viruses that can destroy your PC, Guard Dog scans all drives, downloaded files and e-mail attachments and removes any virus'. Guard Dog keeps itself up-to-date using CyberMedia's award winning Oil Change updating technology to guard against new viruses and threats as soon as they are discovered.

Features

- Full anti-virus protection
- Monitors programs and applets for suspicious behaviour
- Cleans up trails you leave behind as you surf the Web
- Protects sensitive information (e-mail, passwords, personal files)
- Performs a complete security audit on your system

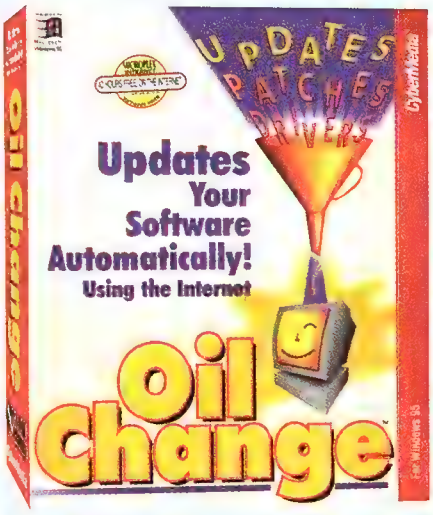
CYB024 Guard Dog Deluxe..... **$85**

Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

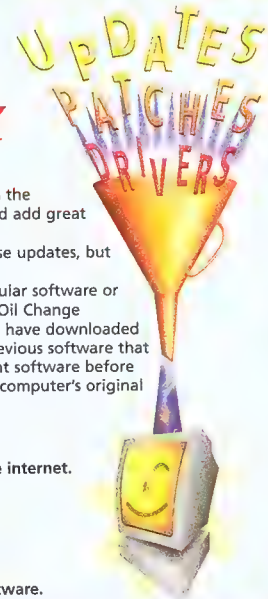
Protect Your PC & Files- Automatically!

Oil Change

Update Your Software AUTOMATICALLY Over The Internet!



New software updates and hardware drives are being released on the Internet every day, designed to fix bugs, improve performance and add great new features to your PC. And most of them are FREE!
You can keep your PC running smoothly if only you could get these updates, but how do you make sure you have installed the updates properly?
Oil change allows you the option of choosing to upgrade a particular software or move onto the next upgrade or driver that is available. If chosen Oil Change automatically and safely installs the new software. Even after you have downloaded the software you still have the opportunity of reverting to the previous software that you were using because Oil Change saves a version of your present software before installing new software - One click is all you have to do and your computer's original setup is restored!
It's that easy and that safe!



- Locates new updates, patches and drivers for your PC on the internet.
- Downloads and installs the updates you select.
- Get new plug ins for your browser.
- Tunes up your software for peak performance.
- Keeps your PC up-to-date.
- Gets you the latest and greatest enhancements for your software.

How does it work?

1. Just click on start and Oil Change identifies all the installed software applications and hardware drives on your PC.
2. Oil Change then checks with CyberMedia's master list of new updates and drivers that are currently available on the Internet and gives you helpful description of each update so you'll know what benefit each update will provide.
3. A helpful description allows you to select only the updates you want. Oil Change downloads and safely installs your new software automatically.

STOCK CODE: RMC210

$55

Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

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Sales Lines Open 9am 'til 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am 'til 3pm Saturday

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First Aid 98

NEW VERSION

First Aid fixes more Windows problems more automatically than any other software.

First Aid 98's advanced database of solutions recognises problems like software conflicts, buggy components, and configuration issues and offers users an easy, one-click solution. it continuously protects against hard disk failure, crashes, software lockups and more. It can even reactivate your PC when your software stops responding! In addition, First Aid will examine your entire PC Internet setup (modem, browser connection) and reassemble portions that are broken. When users experience a problem that First Aid does not know about yet, they can send an ActiveHelp Support E-mail. Included in the E-mail is the PC's system information, everything First Aid did to fix the problem, and a description of the problem in the user's own words.

What New for 98

Refined User Interface! First Aid's new interface is easier to use than before. Users can give their PC a complete "Check-Up" or zero-in on a single PC component.

Smarter, More Automatic Fixes! First Aid 98 fixes tens of thousands of Windows problems with a single mouse click. First Aid's expanded database of solutions allows it to stay on the job until the problem is solved.

Emergency Recovery System! PC won't start up correctly? First Aid's new, emergency recovery system now rebuilds Windows. Using its extensive Knowledge Base, First aid will check every critical component of Windows to make sure all files are working properly. When a problem is encountered, First Aid fixes it by either readjusting your system or reinstalling missing or damaged files.

Finds and Replaces Damaged Files! Plagued by damaged files? First Aid checks to see if actual program files (VXDs, DLLs, 386s etc.) are damaged and replaces the damaged files with their originals (which First Aid reinstalls from the CD)

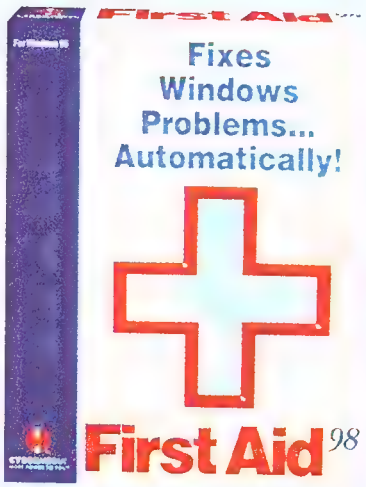
Fixes All Aspects of Your Web Connection! Having trouble with your Web connections? First Aid examines your entire PC Internet setup from modem, to browser, to Internet Service Provider (including plug-ins) and reassembles any portion that is broken. It updates or reinstalls files as needed, and makes sure you are connected for optimum performance.

Conflict Resolution! Ever wonder why your PC is misbehaving? First Aid will scan your entire PC to see if conflicts caused by buggy software, out-of-sync technical standards or incorrect registry setting are the culprit. First Aid will correct the problem by updating the troublesome component or driver.

Here's What First Aid Will Do For You

- Warn you in advance of hard drive failures
- Correct tens of thousands of known problems and help keep your PC conflict free
- Take the risk and hassle out of adding new programs and multimedia cards
- Search the Internet to find the latest solutions
- Act as your personal, 24 hour technical support expert

Fixes Window Problems Automatically!



What the press are saying:

It's Easy to Use!
"You do not have to be a techie to run this program" - *PC Computing*

It's Complete
"The aisles are loaded with utility programs..First Aid's advantage is that it's a friendly package that will prevent and mitigate most common disasters without demanding much from users in return" - *The Washington Post*

It's Essential
"First Aid from CyberMedia can be a big help... an assortment of tools that makes running Windows easier" - *Business Week*

Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

First Aid 98
STOCK CODE: RMG211
$65

UnInstaller Deluxe

Create More Disk Space ...Automatically!

No matter how much hard disk space you have, it never seems to be enough. You have old programs, files downloaded from the Internet, files left behind from programs - all adding up to clutter up your PC. With UnInstaller, you can get rid of the junk files and programs on your PC, safely and thoroughly. The result is a cleaner, smoother-running hard drive!

Get More Use Out of Your Hard Drive

With use, your PC becomes cluttered with old and unused programs and files. Remnants of programs are scattered all over your hard drive in different folders and throughout the Windows registry. It's difficult to figure out where all the junk is and which is safe to delete on your own. Even with the Windows 95 Add/Remove Program function every program may not be removed.

The Safest Way to Clean Up Your PC

With UnInstaller, you can clear away unwanted junk files and programs safely, quickly, and thoroughly! UnInstaller allows you to remove any program, even those that Windows 95 cannot do. Plus, UnInstaller's Installation BackTrack monitors program installations so that you can completely remove them when you need. And with many built-in safety features you can be assured that no critical files are deleted, making UnInstaller the safest way to reclaim disk space.

Which UnInstaller is right for you?

	UnInstaller 4.5	UnInstaller Deluxe
Uninstalls unwanted programs	●	●
Moves and archives programs	●	●
Cleans duplicate and unused files	●	●
Updates itself automatically over the internet*	●	●
Cleans Internet cookies, plug-ins, and ActiveX controls		●
Customizes itself to suit your needs NEW!		●
Schedule periodic cleaning of junk files NEW!		●
Includes complete virus protection* NEW!		●

*** Free updates for one year. Feature requires Internet connection and Windows 95.**

Includes Full Virus Protection!
Uninstaller Deluxe comes with CyberMedia AntiVirus:
- Scans all files and programs for viruses before they reach your PC
- Safeguards your PC from attack from the Internet, floppy disks, and e-mail.

What the press are saying
"This excellent utility is essential to take back control of your PC." - PC Guide
"UnInstaller...it doesn't just sweep problems under the rug, it eradicates them." - ComputerLife
"...UnInstaller...continues to be a top-notch deinstallation utility..." - InfoWorld
"UnInstaller is quick, easy to use, and thorough." - PC Review

UNI008 UnInstaller 4.5 ..... **$65**

UNI009 UnInstaller Delux **$85**

All prices INCLUDE sales tax. Prices subject to change, see page 2 for terms & conditions.

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McAfee Nuts&Bolts98

Makes Windows friendlier, easier, faster, safer and more secure.

Nuts&Bolts98 - It's everything you need to clean, optimize, monitor and analyze your PC system and software.
- Efficiently manage and secure your data, and swiftly recover from a disaster.
- Prevent crashes and correct system problems-automatically-before they occur.
- Customise Windows98 to really work for you.
- NEW enhancements boost your PC's performance-from launch acceleration to disk defragmentation.
- NEW Year 2000 technologies prepare you for the next millennium.

PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE

Fix Up
All the superior performance of classic Nuts&Bolts, plus many NEW and enhanced features including: supersafe back-up and recovery of your valuable files, improved crash protection for those dreaded Blue Screen crashes plus, automatic repair of thousands of common PC problems.

Tune Up
NEW & IMPROVED functions to customise key Windows operations. Eliminate those frustrating conflicts associated with new-application installations.

Clean Up
NEW & IMPROVED clean-up features revitalize your system by eliminating old, duplicated and unused files. Manage unruly fonts, too.

Speed Up
Now launch your applications up to 300% faster than Win 98. Copy files up to 25% faster than XCOPY. Explorer enhancements drive the easiest and fastest navigation available.

Data Security and Management
* Encrypt sensitive files for total security.
* Send self-decrypting e-mail that can't be intercepted.
* Shred sensitive files so they are absolutely, positively unrecoverable.
* Create and manage compressed, industry standard ZIP files for quick e-mail and Internet transmission.

MCA054 McAfee Nuts&Bolts98 ..... **$89**

McAfee Toolbox 2000

It's Friday, Dec 31, 1999. Do you know where your PC is going tomorrow?

- Checks Time Clock Hardware and BIOS
- Fixes Time Clock and BIOS problems
- Scans data files (including Excel, Access and others) for potential date problems and alerts you to them
- Scans for and fixes 2 year date fields in your data files. Example - 4/11/69 to 4/11/1969 or July 11, 06 to July 11, 2006
- Checks and optimises Windows settings for operation beyond 2000
- Scans for popular applications and alerts you to any known issues published by the manufacturers of these applications

Overall PC Protection - More than a millennium product, 2000 Toolbox is what you need for superior performance TODAY.

- **Superior Virus Protection** Even potential Year 2000 viruses can be found by McAfee VirusScan Detection. It's the #1 virus protection software.
- **McAfee Rescue Disk** Helps you get your system up and running in case of a disaster
- **Discover** Discover gives detailed system information to help resolve problems and conflicts Beyond 2000
- **WinGauge** Monitors your system and alerts you to potential problems, including impending hard disk failures
- **McAfee Image** Backs up critical system regions to help recover in case of a disaster

MCA053 McAfee 2000 Toolbox **$65**

VirusScan Security Suite

McAFEE

VirusScan Security Suite is the first product to offers complete desktop protection. This award-winning suite of products protects you from virus attacks, backs up critical data, stops system crashes, and ensures complete privacy for data files and Internet e-mail. Every year millions of people have critical information destroyed or stolen from their PC.

Features
Includes:
- PC Medic 97
- VirusScan
- QuickBackup
- PCCrypto
- PCFirewall
- WebScanX

MCA042 McAfee Security Suite **$109**

VirusScan Deluxe

McAFEE

Includes Desktop & Internet Backup and comprehensive virus protection. Incorporating McAfee's new Hunter Technology, leading lab tests show VirusScan Deluxe has 100% detection and best detection for Word and Excel macro viruses. Deluxe also includes multimedia training.

- 100% Virus Detection
- Years of Product Upgrades
- Free Internet and Desktop File Backup
- Free Lifetime Virus Signature Updates
- Free SecureCast Automatic Push Internet Updates.
- Includes free Webscan

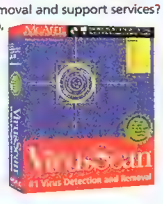
MCA052 VirusScan Deluxe..... **$79**

VirusScan

No.1 in Virus Detection & Removal

McAFEE

Why have millions choosen McAfee for their VirusScan protection, removal and support services? Superior virus detection, removal and support services.ViruScan natively supports a variety of desktops with fesatures to keep you imune from their viruses.



Features
- One year free upgrades
- 100% Virus protection with Hunter Technology
- Security with service and support
- #1 Worldwide anti-virus Market share
- Includes free Webscan

MCA051 VirusScan **$69**

HURRICANE '98

All the Speed you'll ever need!

Tired of waiting??? Are you are forever waiting for a program to kick in, booting up takes too long, accessing slower drives takes too much time? If you can answer yes to any or all of the above, HURRICANE 98 is for you!

McAFEE PC MAGAZINE

For Windows 95, 98 and 3.x.

Features
- Speeds up Launch and Boot time
- Speeds up CD-ROM, ZIP & Networks
- Speeds up Disk Caching
- Expands RAM
- Speeds up Printing
- Includes free Webscan

HEL002 Hurricane 98 ..... **$69**

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See page 2 for Price Pledge

LapLink - Taking the remote out of remote access

The award winning, original and best remote access and support tools. Guaranteed better performance or your money back.

Remote DeskLink

NEW PRODUCT

The freedom and flexibility to work from anywhere, anytime.

The first feature rich remote access solution for less than $100 - why stay back at the office when you can work on your office PC from home?

Work whenever and wherever it's convenient for you. Lets you run programs on your office PC just as if you were sitting at your desk. Read and send e-mail, access databases, update documents, chat on line with other remote computer users and more! Transfer information between your PCs easily by simply cutting and pasting

One step remote access to information. Simply double click an icon on your home PC to instantly connect to and control your office PC.

Automatic configuration. Remote DeskLink automatically configures your modem and network devices for remote communications.

Password protection. No one else can access your PC and files without your permission.

Intelligent caching boosts speed. Remote DeskLink optimises the time you spend working online by storing and retrieving images from the hard disk of your PC at home.

Choose your optimal level of performance. You can increase performance by specifying the number of colours that are transmitted between the two PC's. Choose fewer colours for even faster operation of non graphical applications.

NIT015 Remote DeskLink **$89**

LapLink - One Step remote access to your desktop

LapLink for Windows NT is the complete remote access solution for the computing professional or "road warrior". LapLink's 32-bit features provide everything needed to work effectively from home, road or the office. Includes both NT and Windows 95 versions. The product is Windows 98 ready and is also backward compatible and can be used to access 3.1 platforms.

LapLink contains many additional features that make it the ideal product for telecommuters and roadwarriors:

Stay in touch while on the road. Internet support provides worldwide remote control, file transfer and chat communications for only your local service charges. To speed remote node performance, take advantage of LapLink's support for PPP compliant remote access servers (RAS) such as Shiva's LanRover or Windows NT RAS while accessing your desktop resources. When you're back in the office, LapLink helps you keep your laptop and desktop in sync. A parallel cable is included for instant updating, transferring and synchronising of files.

Leverages NT security plus Laplink for NT/95 runs as a service so remote connections can be made prior to log-on.

High performance file transfer. LapLink is the undisputed leader in speedy efficient file transfer and synchronisation. With Xchange Agent you can simply automate file transfers (between one or many folders) with a single mouse click. You can even schedule transfers to run completely unattended. Patented SpeedSync technology provides for the fastest (and cheapest) transfer available by only sending the changed portions of files. Adaptive compression automatically adjusts for the fastest file transfer over varying line conditions

The product incorporates all the features and benefits of DeskLink including:

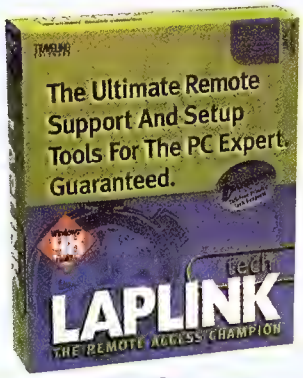
- Work whenever and wherever it's convenient for you.
- One step remote access to information.
- Automatic configuration
- Password protection and encrypted transfer.
- Intelligent caching boosts speed.

NIT016 Remote LapLink

$179

LapLink Tech - Designed specifically for Professionals

NEW PRODUCT



LapLink Tech is the first remote access product designed specifically for Tech Support professionals. It has been designed with one purpose in mind - to save time.

LapLink Tech's remote control functionality gives you complete access to remote PCs. You can diagnose and resolve problems, or run any application on a remote PC - whether you're across town or across the country.

LapLink Tech is based on the same technology found in the award winning LapLink NT/95 products. Additional features include:

Simultaneous Voice Chat. Talk with other PC users at the same time you're remotely controlling their PC (requires soundcard, microphone and speakers on both PC's).

Print re-direction. LapLink Tech is the first product to offer bi-directional remote printing - print to or from your local printer.

Disk cloning. Traveling Software has teamed up with Binary research, the leaders in disk cloning to bring you Ghost Special Edition (SE), which provides disc cloning for driver upgrades, system installations and system backups.

Virus protection. Includes Dr Solomon's WinGuard for unrivalled virus protection for file transfers, Internet downloads, e-mail, diskettes and more.

Multi-user Corporate and educational pricing available on request

NIT017 Laplink Tech **$269**

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Traxdata CD ReWritable Discs

TRX163

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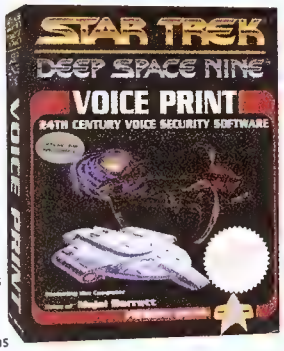
Star Trek

Space Nine Voice Print Security Program

Voice print technology is no longer science fiction- Now it's science fact!

NEW PRODUCT



Windows and PC Magazine editors called this voice verification and encryption program "remarkable", "innovative", "easy to use" and "unbreakable". Now we've brought the power of Voice Print Technology to every Star Trek fan. This program combines the best elements of the TV series with leading edge Voice Print Verification Technology. It limits access to a PC, its data and encrypted directories by requiring not a password, but a voice match.

Features

- Stops program execution by locking Windows RUN command, program icons and program groups when the screen saver kicks in or by pressing a hotkey
- Disables Windows edit and exit functions
- Parental Control Lock - limits access to the Internet, adult material and restricts excessive game play
- Protects application data on the Windows desktop with state of the art Encryption technology
- Interact with your favorite characters using DS9VP's sound track files, or record and add your own voice and sound effects to the program.
- Star Trek Security Shields - Each is a hand painted graphical image designed specifically to ward off intruders and work in combination with QVoice's Voice Authentication Technology.

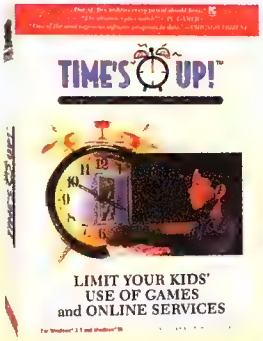
CHK008 Star Trek DS9 Voice Print Security Program **$39**

Time's Up!

NEW PRODUCT

Parental Control Software - Limit your kids' use of games and online services

Time's Up! enables parents to establish time and access limits for their children's use of games, online services, and other programs in Windows. Time's Up! does not determine the limits. Rather, it gives the parent total control and flexibility to establish appropriate limits for each child. Time's Up! is easy for parents to use, even for those who are not experienced in using the PC. Installation and configuration is done in three easy steps which are demonstrated in a tutorial. Also, help screens are available wherever choices are made.



- Establishment of limits is restricted to the parent.
- Separate limits can be established for user, program, and/or day of the week.
- Up to three blockout periods per day can be established for each user and each program.
- Visitors can be given access to the PC with their own limits.
- Vacation schedules can be established for children with their permanent schedules resuming automatically when their vacation period is over.
- Each user of the PC selects his or her own password required to access.
- A "Hot Key" permits the user to see how much time has been used and is left, also, a user can pause his or her program to answer the phone, go to the bathroom, or pay attention to Mom or Dad without "wasting all of my time on the computer."
- Users receive a two-minute warning before their Time's Up!
- Reports may be printed which detail the family's use of the computer.

CHK009 Time's Up! **$39**

Utility Belt

Six all-star Windows 95 utilities in one package

MicroHelp ZIP - Manage your ZIP files with ease

- Integrates directly into the Windows 95 interface
- Supports drag-and-drop, so ZIP file management is fast & simple
- Internet friendly - supports many common formats including .TAR, .GZ, .LZH and UUencoding
- With built in file management, finding those ZIP files has never been easier

Uninstall Utility - The safest uninstaller for PC novices

- IMSI makes managing your hard drive easy
- Uninstall or move applications
- Remove duplicate files
- Locate orphaned items
- Free up limited disk space

NEW PRODUCT

Virus Detection - Worlds' best virus detection technology from McAfee, the virus experts

- Detects more than 11,000 known viruses including Office 95/97 viruses
- Accurately pinpoints known, generic and even new viruses

Crash Protection - Stops crashes before they stop you

- McAfee crash protection technology recovers from 16 and 32-bit system crashes
- Allows you to gracefully exit your applications without rebooting - save your work!

CD-Speedster - Now your CD speed reads

- Store frequently used CD-ROM data on your HD for improved performance
- Load your CD-ROM titles faster
- Make your CD-ROM searches sizzle

Burn It! - Protect your data from prying eyes

- Don't just delete sensitive files - burn them with Burn It!
- Erase data completely so it can't be recovered

CHK010 Utility Belt **$89**

Windrenalin

Accelerate Your Hard Drive By Up To 500%

With Windrenalin experience a rush as your hard drive accelerates by up to 500%. Instantly your heart rate accelerates, your respiration skyrockets as your program launch speed improves out of sight. In theory, with transfer rates upwards of 5MB per second, your hard drive is very fast. In reality, it often struggles to go faster than 1/10th that speed. Just like an expensive 260 kph sports car that rarely goes over 100 kph your hard drive is often obstructed by the PC equivalent of stop signs. Traffic jams and speed limits.

WINDRENALIN with its award-winning patented SuperFast technology reduces these obstructions. Instantly accelerate your hard drive. Launch programs faster. Multi-task faster and speed up file system operations on high-end Pentium PCs.

One look at the control panel tells you this is a new kind of software

AUS313 Windrenalin **$55**

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*See page 2 for Price Pledge

Undo-it!

How many hours have you spent trying to recover from a single mistake you made?

NEW PRODUCT

Anybody who has ever used a PC knows the feeling of sheer panic and frustration when they accidentally hit the wrong key! The fact is ... when it comes to PC's we all make mistakes, and UnDo It! from KissCo will save your bacon. UnDo It! wipes away mistakes and the stress that goes along with them. UnDo It! is your one button lifesaver.

"More than an Uninstaller. Better than an Undelete. Faster than a Rescue..."

UnDo It! will undo many Windows 95 actions such as:

- Undo "Save" versus "Save As"
- Undo downloads
- Undo file virus attacks
- Undo Programs that don't install properly (including registry files)
- Undo a new version of a product that wipes out old data
- Undo program "uninstalls"
- Undo the consequences of "reboot now for the changes to take effect"

Payback Time! UnDo It! will pay for itself time and again in saved technical support calls and wasted hours wrestling with fixing mistakes. From now on, install new software, uninstall old software, upgrade to new versions, download from the Internet; change, copy, delete, move or rename files as often as you like with certainty. UnDo It! has you covered!

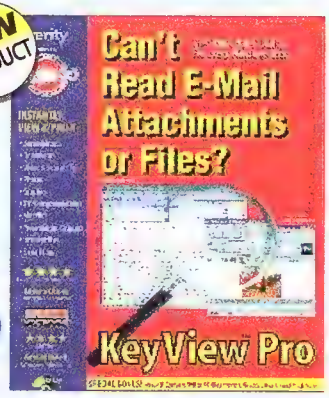
MCA043 UnDo It! **$59**

KeyView Pro

The must have utility forevery Windows User

NEW PRODUCT

Have you ever been sent an email attachment that you haven't been able to open. Frustration isn't it. Have you ever received an email attachment which as been created in a later version of a product you own so when you open it up a 1 page document it stretches out into a 250 page document. What a hassle! Well if any of these things have happened to you, then you need KeyView Pro.



The Perfect Add-on to any Windows based application!

It's like having 200 application in one! KeyView Pro will allow you to instantly view and print;

- Spreadsheets
- Documents
- Video and Sound Clips
- Photos
- Graphics
- ZIP/Compressed files
- MAC files
- Internet files
- Email Files
- And many more

KIS042 KeyView Pro **$59**

Check 2000 PC

Flags and fixes year 2000 PC problems

- **Fixes your hardware**
- **Analyses your software**
- **Provides detailed advice**

NEW PRODUCT

Fully Tax Deductable

Beat the millennium bug while you still can
It's not just your hardware that's at risk. The dreaded millennium bug doesn't affect just hardware. It can be even more devastating to software and data files. Years of data such as spreadsheets, databases, dated entries, bookkeeping ledgers and financial files are at risk of destruction.

Don't wait until it's too late!
Many PC problems are starting already and the year 2000 is one deadline that can't be postponed. CHECK 2000 PC provides you with a detailed knowledge base and personalised guidance for fixing your unique Year 2000 problems. You'll find out how to protect data and how to address software problems PLUS automatically fix your hardware.

Eliminate Year 2000 hardware problems:
Your hardware is exposed to the millennium bug at the BIOS level. CHECK 2000 PC finds and eliminates critical hardware data problems in 98% of BIOS types by correcting the PC BIOS system clock.

Attack Year 2000 software problems:
CHECK 200PC is the only program of its kind. You can depend on Greenwich Mean Time's detailed advice for all your critical year 2000 software problems.

What CHECK 2000 PC does your you:

- Finds and eliminates hardware date problems on the spot by correcting the PC BIOS system clock.
- Tells you how your data and software will be affected by the year 2000 changeover.
- Gives advice on avoiding problems inherent in many thousands of popular software programs.
- Helps you prioritise software and data problems for timely repair.
- Lets you run the program as many times as you like to keep monitoring your your PC's year 2000 status
- Provides free technical support for 90 days.

Greenwich Mean Time

STOCKCODE: GRE001

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BPAY

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- Your customer reference number (eg. account number) is on your invoice or ask our sales staff who will advise you of your customer reference number.
- You will need to enter International Software Warehouse's biller code: 4358.

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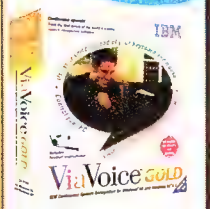
IBM Via Voice Gold

The ultimate productivity tool for your PC, Via Voice Gold gives you the power to create documents and control your PC by speaking naturally to your computer.

You talk. It types.



Harness The Power Of Continuous Speech

IBM078

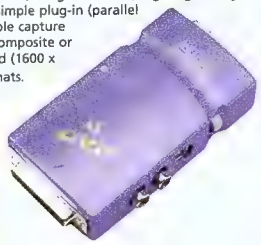
$245

For a limited time only.

AI Gotcha 2

Portable Video Capture

Take snapshots of your favourite images from Camcorder, VCR, or other Video source in 16.7 million colours into your PC. You can use photos for multimedia presentations, web page publishing, disk-based catalogues personal photo albums, image database, digital greeting cards, newsletters, e-mails and much more. This is a simple plug-in (parallel port) and play device providing a high quality portable capture solution. By connecting to a video source, whether composite or Y/C, an extremely high quality image can be captured (1600 x 1200 dpi) into any of the supported graphic file formats.



Features

- AiGotcha! Real-time image capture software
- Internet audio postcard
- Parallel port extension cable
- AIGotcha hardware (NTSC/PAL)
- Video Craft Multi-Media suite of special effects
- Pass through printer connections

* for a limited time only

ASS011 AI Gotcha **$229**

Pocket Scan Converter (PSC 1106)

Your business presentations on the big screen.

Using the Pocket Scan Converter in conjunction with your notebook computer (or PC), any presentation can be displayed on a TV or recorded onto video tape, making the Pocket Scan Converter ideal for business, education and training applications. This compact device simply plug into your notebook/PC and the other end into a TV/Video to put your presentations onto the big screen. And when the work is done,play computer games on your TV. Designed with flicker reduction circuitry and S-VSH support, the Pocket Scan Converter produces extremely vivid, high quality images with up to 16.8 million colours.

* for a limited time only

ASS001 PSC 1106 ..... **$219**

WaveWatcher TV PCI Card

Video capture with Media Studio Pro 2.5VE and TV tuner PCI card with remote control

The WaveWatcher provides resolution up 768x560 at 30 fps or single frame / display mode up to 1280x1024 in 24 bit true colour This simple to use Plug-n-play installation makes getting started a snap. The WaveWatcher PCI bus, eliminating the need for feature connector as well as the VGA looping cable.

A MultiMedia Studio on Your Computer
Capture full motion video direct from your TV, camcorder of VCR with CD-quality sound. Includes Media Studio Pro 2.5 professional editing and special effects software & allows the creation of full motion multi-media clips with up to 101 simultaneous video and audio tracks.

125 Channel TV Turner
Featuring 125 Channel TV Turner with Background viewing. Simply plug your T.V. antenna input directly into your computer and watch your favourite shows and movie on UHF or VHF while running other applications.

Video Conference Enabled
Works with your video camera, modem and video conferencing software for improved image resolution and faster frame rates. Includes Unled's MediaStudio 2.5 Video Editing Software.

* for a limited time only

ASS006 WaveWatcher **$329**

Fly Video EZ II

Video Conferencing Kit

LifeView's Video Conferencing Kit lets you communicate face to face with anyone around the world at up to 25fps for under a $1 an hour.
Kit includes: Fly Video EZ II Video Capture PCI adaptor, FlyCam, VDOPhone video conferencing, V-Mail multimedia messaging and Management software.

Features

- Compliant to ITU H 324 Standard for Low Bit Rate Video Conferencing
- Provides live video surfing over the Internet
- Integrates high quality colour CCD camera
- Connection by analog telephone lines (POTS), digital lines (ISDN) or network (LAN,ATM,T1, etc)
- Video/Audio interlace data stream conforms to Microsoft AVI file format
- Fully compatible with Microsoft Video for Windows

ASS014 Fly Video EZ II Conferencing kit **$259**

Connectix QUICKCAM VC

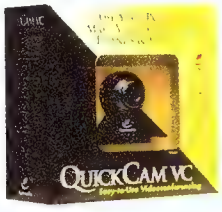
Video Communications on your Desktop!!

TOP SELLING

Communication Has Never Been Easier

Connectix QuickCam is an affordable videoconferencing solution bringing excitement and immediacy to your desktop. In less than ten minutes, PC users can set up and begin exploring the world of visual communications.
For video e-mail or real-time videoconferencing over the Internet, your company LAN, even modem to modem, QuickCam VC captures still or motion images quickly and easily to add impact to your applications. Lets you send images with just a few mouse clicks.
Liven up your e-mail messages with graphics, sound, still images and full-motion video clips.You can send video clips as easily as text from your desktop. Best of all they are self-playing , so the receiver doesn't need to have QuickCam to view or listen to your messages. Communication has never been easier.

Unlike most shareware or freeware videoconferencing products, QuickCam includes Connectix VideoPhone 3.0 which supports both Internet and modem connections. It also uses technology from PictureTel Corporation to support the H.324 standard for communicating with a modem over plain-old-telephone lines, so you can reach a broader community of people using H.324-compliant products.
Easy to install, simply load the software, plug in camera and your set. There are no special cards to install, just plug in to the parallel port and go.
QuickCam also works with popular software packages, supporting the TWAIN standard to acquire still images and capture video in Video for Windows AVI format.



QuickCam Software Includes:

- Improved, easier to use interface lets you capture movies and still images from the same application
- E-mail integration lets you easily attach images to your e-mail messages
- Auto brightness and hue controls
- Saturation, white and black level, and red and blue level controls
- Exposure setting options
- Still image enhancements for better still images (in millions mode)

QuickCam Camera Includes:

- Custom camera base for easy adjustment
- Connectix VIDEC compression for improved video quality, faster frame rates and larger frame sizes
- 6" cable with parallel connector and a passthrough keyboard power adapter (parallel version)
- USB connector (USB version)
- Standard tripod socket

What the Press say:

- *" QuickCam VC - A videoconferencing camera that helps you to look good"*
  -cnets computers.com
- *" Big possibilities in a small digital camera "*
  -PC Week

STOCK CODE: CTX001

$369

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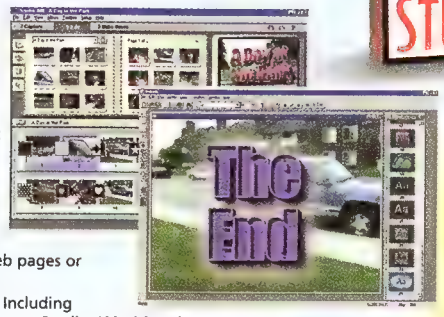
PINNACLE SYSTEMS Studio 400

EASY CREATIVE VIDEO EDITING ON YOUR PC

The Studio 400 is a revolutionary new consumer editing system that combines the advantages of a non-linear editor (instant preview, flexibility and ease of use) with the advantages of a linear editor (low PC hardware overhead, minimal disk space and all external installation).

Studio 400 is based on the proven and award winning VideoDirector Studio 200 hardware but features an all new state-of-the-art non-linear editing software package.

NEW PRODUCT



Easier Editing!

- **Automatically captures and logs your camcorder footage.**
- **Easy cut-and-paste, drag-and-drop editing** - Lets you place scenes in any order you like, and enables you to trim and edit unwanted footage with greater accuracy
- **Instant play back** **Studio 400** is the first video editing product to use Microsoft's DirectShow technology: View edited movies instantly with no rendering time

Digital Output and effects galore!

- **Output full resolution video tapes or digital video** In addition to high quality video tape output, AVI files can be sent friends and family via email or Internet, or included in web pages or business presentations.
- **New titling system** - play with over 300 title styles and looks! Including metallic and neon-even rotate, scroll or create flying text-with new Studio 400 TitleDeko
- **Have fun with over 160 professional-quality scene transitions** From more wipes and fades to cool dissolves
- **Custom build your own soundtrack** With SmartSound(tm) technology automatically create custom soundtracks cut to the length of your movie. Use the Recording Studio to add narration to your movies for that personal touch

Simple to install and use!

- **Uses very little hard disk space** Studio 400 is the only video editing product which uses only 150 MB of hard disk space to create a one hour full-quality video tape (other products need between 4-8 GB, or 4,000-8,000 MB)!
- **No Boards to install** - simply plug right into your parallel port
- **Multimedia tutorial** - included to help you get started with video editing

Studio 400 can run on any Pentium-based PC with Windows 95 and 16 MB RAM, 30 MB free hard disk space, a free serial (COM) port, camcorder with LANC or Panasonic 5 Pin jack and remote control VCR. You need only 150 MB free disk space to create a one hour, full-quality video tape.

Stock Code: NIT013

$739

buz™ Multimedia Producer

- **Get your multimedia stuff into your PC**
- **Personalise it using the easiest software around**
- **Share it with others using Zip or Jaz disks, VCR tape or even the Internet**

iomega

Capture, Edit, and Share video, digital photos, and sound using your computer.

Buz puts you in the director's chair. Create would-class presentations, home movies, capture, edit, add music and audio to your videos and even create multimedia for Web sites. All on your PC.

Buz features three versatile, powerful applications working together to let you produce your own cool multimedia projects

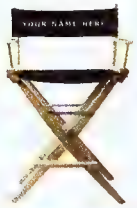
Video software: MGI VideoWave SE Plus lets you edit video, add graphics and mix sound. The Buz Video Software lets you add text, transitions, special effects and CD-quality audio to your home videos and then output them to videotape, the Internet, or Zip and Jaz disks.

Photo software: PictureWorks HotShots lets you edit, catalogue and share your digital photos. Create calendars, birthday card invitations, or digital postcards with your digital photos. The Buz Photo software is a digital-photo manipulation software application that lets you change the background colours, crop images, add type to images, create photo albums and lots more. Your images can then be imported to your videos.

Audio software: Iomega RecordIt lets you capture music from audio CDs or tapes and voice or audio from microphones directly to Zip or Jaz disk, or even your hard drive. Music and audio tracks from RecordIt can be imported into your videos.

Stock Code IOM080

$379



Here is What you get

Buz is a unique combination of hardware, software, tutorials, and high performance:

- PCI Card combining professional quality video capture, real-time hardware video compression, high-quality video output and Ultra SCSI connectivity. (50-pin high density external and 50-pin internal connectors.) The Ultra SCSI connector gives you the very best performance from SCSI peripherals, such as Jaz 2GB.
- User friendly Buz Box with in/out connections for composite video, S-Video and L/R stereo audio. No more crawling around under your desk to find the right connectors on the back of your computer.

What can you do with Buz? You're limited only by your imagination.

Capture

- Capture Audio/Video and digital photos from a variety of sources
- Get video from camcorders, VCRs laserdiscs, or DVD
- Get images from scanners, CD-ROM, or Jazz and Zip disks with Buz's Ultra SCSI connection
- Capture audio from microphones, CDs or tapes.

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CD-Recordable Optical Disks

TRX103

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Traxdata CD ReWritable Discs

TRX163

Only $39

For a limited time only.

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COMPRO™ The Way To Go

PLUG 'N SNAP DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA

COMPRO PS39 Digital Video Camera

NEW PRODUCT

Instant Picture & Video For Your Desktop!

COMPRO PS39 Digital Video Camera offers great convenience of plug and snap on any Windows PC or notebook. Simply connect the camera to the printer port, a quick software installation and you are ready to take a brilliant picture, or video conference at life like frame rates.

Superior features:

- 40 frames per second (video images)
- 1280 x 960 resolution at 16.8 million true colour still images
- Superior image quality without compression
- Adjustable focus Lens (10mm to Infinity)
- Night vision capability
- Plug and Snap on all PC and note-book printer ports
- Includes PS2/AT Keyboard Adaptor, removable tilt and swivel base assembly, user manual

Great for:

- Personalised greeting card and t-shirt transfer
- Picture & Video E-mail
- Video Conferencing
- Internet Home Page creation
- Jazz up reports/presentations
- Picture ID
- Digital photo album and more...

BONUS

- 3D/EYE TriSpectives 1.0 Asymetrix
- Digital Video Producer 4.0
- 3D F/X 2.0
- COMPEL 2.0
- Web 3D
- WebPublisher
- COMPRO Microphone

Comes with CD containing:

- SnapShot Image Capturing Software
- AVI Software Driver
- TWAIN Software Driver
- Microsoft NetMeeting 2.0 Video Conferencing Software
- ULEAD Video Studio Software

MICROSOFT WINDOWS COMPATIBLE

MPC Multimedia PC

CMP005 COMPRO PS39 Digital Video Camera..... **$329**

COMPRO™ The Way To Go

4X WRITE 8X READ CD RECORDER KIT

NEW PRODUCT

CDR 7502 - 4x8x CD Recorder Kit

High Speed Operation - COMPRO CDR 7502 is designed to compliment today's high performance PCs. Its 4X writing speed will significantly reduce the time taken to complete write operations compared to conventional CD recorder. Its 8X reading speed is capable of fetching up to 1.2MB of data per second to satisfy most demanding applications.

The COMPRO CDR 7502 Advantages

- **Superb Performance** with 4X writing and 8X reading speed.
- **Fixed and Variable Packet Writing** significantly reduce the overhead of incremental writing.
- **Running Optimum Power Control** dynamically regulates the laser writing power to accommodate CD recordable media from different manufacturers to minimise media wastage due to incompatibilities.
- **Highest Writing Reliability** with SCSI-2 interface.
- **Highest Product Reliability** is assured with stringent quality control.

Applications

- Backups Valuable CDs
- Massive Storage for web page, images, data and programs
- Creates Personalised Audio CDs
- Easy Data/ Software/ Audio Clip Distribution
- Reliable Backup up to 100 Years

Package Includes:

- COMPRO CD-R 7502 Internal CD Recorder drive
- ADAPTEC Plug and Play PCI SCSI-2 Controller
- GEAR CD Recording Software
- ADAPTEC Direct CD
- Sample CD-Recordable Media
- Mounting Screws
- SCSI Data Cable
- Installation and User Guide

4x8x IDE Now Available

MICROSOFT WINDOWS COMPATIBLE

MPC Multimedia PC

CMP006 COMPRO 4x8x SCSI CD-R Kit..... **$845**

CMP007 COMPRO 4x8x IDE CD-R Kit..... **$709**

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*See page 2 for Price Pledge

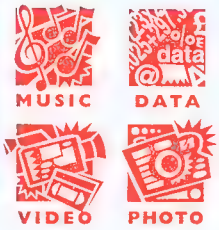
TRAXDATA® Recording your own CD's has never been easier!

...with Traxdata now providing a wide grange of CD-R solutions featuring internal & external 4x12 CD Recorder Kits and 2x 2x 6 / 4x 2x 6 CD-RW Recorder Kits, specifically designed to suite your individual requirement.

Traxdata has tested and selected a complete range of components to provide the ultimate in CD recording solutions, all in a single box. Traxdata CD Recorders allow you to record all your favourite elements (music, data, photos, or video) directly to low cost CD-R discs. Recording could not be easier! Now, with only a few clicks of a mouse, you can turn your PC into a Digital Recording Studio.

Promotion ends 31st Dec '98

WIN A FERRARI F355 Spider



CD R Writer 4x 12

TRX151 Traxdata CDR 4120 Internal SCSI Interface with PCI SCSI Card **$949**

TRX150 Traxdata CDR 4120 Internal SCSI Interface **$849**

TRX152 Traxdata CDR 4120 External SCSI Interface **$949**

CD RW Writer 4x 2x 6

TRX153 Traxdata CDRW 4260 Internal SCSI Interface **$999**

TRX160 Traxdata CDRW 4260 External SCSI Interface **$1099**

CD RW Writer 2x 2x 6

TRX149 Traxdata CDRW 2260 Internal IDE Interface **$655**

WinOnCD 3.5 Professional

Creating a CD-Recordable/CD-ReWritable disc

With WinOnCD 3.5 and a CD-R or CD-RW recorder, you have all you need to create a CD. This outstanding software for Windows 95 and NT writes discs of all formats and also provides the necessary editor (e.g. for Video-CD or CD-Extra). WinOnCD 3.5 supports both SCSI and ATAPI/EIDE CD and CD-RE recorders of all major manufacturers. Using the ERASER tool the CD-WR media can be totally or partially erased.

Features

- WinOnCD provides the user with an easy-to-use "drag & drop" interface.
- Support for both SCSI and ATAPI/EIDE CD-R and CD-RW Recorders
- Enhanced "Write Engine"- CPU capacity 10% at most
- Track-at-once or Disc-at-once CD recording if supported by CD recorder
- Effective Auto Editor
- Artwork Editor
- 2 x Traxdata 74 minute CD-R Media

TRX167 WinOnCD 3.5 Professional **$185**

Just Audio Recording Studio

Professional Audio Recording Kit

Your own Audio CDs in 4 EASY steps!!!

Just Audio Recording studio allows even the novice CD-R User to create professional Audio CD-Rs with complete ease.

Connect your stereo or audio source directly to your sound card using the selection of high quality cables included, copy your Audio Tracks to your hard disk and away ou go to have the power of just Audio Recording Studio at your fingertips!!

TRX161 Traxdata JustAudio **$89**

Traxdata SCSI Accessory Kit for PCI Bus

This kit provides a great SCSI solution for both the novice and for SCSI professionals.

- Easy self-configuring installation software
- On-board BIOS permits future upgrades.

TRX162 Traxdata SCSI Accessory Kit for PCI Buss **$139**

PressIT Custom CD Labeller

Give your CDs a professional image.

Custom Lable your CDs

The PressIT CD Labelling Kit uses a clever yet simple design, allowing you to put professional looking labels on your CDs. This neat and compact labelling system provides the perfect answer to all those CD labelling task which, up to now, have been a real problem. The PressIT uses special die-cut labels (available in a range of colours as well as clear plastic), which can be printed using either an inkjet or laser printer.

PressIT's unique system positions and applies the labels perfectly centered and bubble free every time.

Included in the package are 20 assorted labels and Design Express software that makes creative design straight-forward, together with templates for most MAC and PC based graphic packages.

For Macs: MSWord, Photoshop, QuarkXPress, Illustrator, Freehand, Pagemaker, Claris Works.

For PCs: CorelDraw!, Photoshop, QuarkXPress, Illustrator, Freehand, Pagemaker, MSWord

TRX106 PressIT **$79**

Traxdata Media

TRX103 Traxdata 74mim CD Recordable Media **$3.50**

TRX163 Traxdata CD Rewritable discs **$35**

Mitshbshi Media

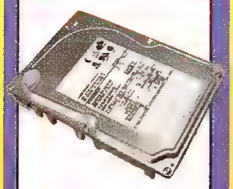
TRX105 Mitsubishi 74min Platinum CD Recordable Media (Silver/Blue) **$3.95**

TRX115 Mitsubishi 74min Platinum CD Recordable Media (Unbranded) **$3.95**

TRX135 Mitsubishi 650MB Rewritable CD (Jewel Case) **$45**

TRX164 Mitsubishi PD Cartridge **$59**

MAXTOR Hard Drives



3.2 Gb EIDE Hard Drive

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MAX046

Amazing Value

4.3 Gb EIDE Hard Drive

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8.4 Gb EIDE Hard Drive

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MAX048

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IMS016

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For a limited time only.

miroVIDEO DRX

miro

Affordable Desktop Video Publishing

NEW PRODUCT

The miroVIDEO DRX offers easy-to-use personal video publishing. Capture and edit video for home movies, presentations, web sites, or your own CDs. The DRX includes MGI VideoWave, making PC video easy, and Kai's Power GOO SE for image manipulation and added fun!

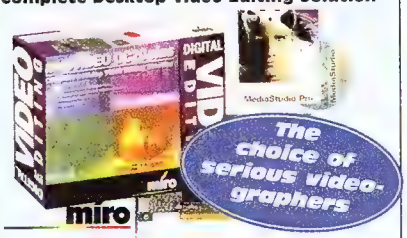
High-quality nonlinear desktop video publishing

- Add cool transitions and wild special effects
- Create professional-looking titles, graphics and animations
- Output your video to a TV or VCR
- Superior video quality with data rates up to 3 MB per second
- Digital video recording in real time to your PC's hard disk
- Full-motion video with 60 (NTSC) or 50 (PAL/SECAM) fields per second
- Video capture in 4:2:2 YUV, 24-bit TrueColour
- Adjustable compression rate up to 100:1
- Real-time video overlay with a DirectDraw compatible graphics board
- Supports S-VHS, Hi8, Video8 and VHS sources

LAK116 miroVIDEO DRX..... **$529**

miroVIDEO DC20 plus

Complete Desktop Video Editing Solution



The miroVIDEO DC20 is the system of choice for the serious videographer, semi-professional, or multimedia producer. Providing S-VHS/Hi8 quality non linear editing, PCI bus mastering & video overlay. Ideal for users wanting a little more than the DC10 but not needing all the advanced features of the DC30 plus. Included is a mind-blowing array of software. Media Studio 5.0VE for video editing & MPEG conversion, VivoActive Producer for creating streaming video for internet connect, and sound Forge XP4.0 for audio editing. miroVIDEO DC20 plus, offers improved digital video quality, user enhancements, and more versatility through video overlay, an extraordinary collection of software, and bus mastering which delivers higher data rates and lower compression ratios. Once again miro breaks new ground offering advanced digital video editing solutions at affordable prices.

Features

- Delivers improved data rates up to 4.0 MB/second and M-JPEG compression of 4.4:1 at full-screen 640 x 480 resolution
- Realtime video overlay on the computer monitor eliminating the need for an external video monitor.
- MediaStudio Pro 5.0 VE
- Supports S-VHS, Hi8, VHS and Video8 formats along with Composite and S-Video input and output. miroDEMO CD-ROM giving users step-by-step installation instructions along with techniques for successful video editing.

LAK113 miroVIDEO DC20 Plus **$1229**

miroMEDIA PCTV Pro

Turn your PC into a TV

NEW PRODUCT

TV – RADIO – CAPTURE

The first card on the market that supports Intel's InterCast technology (INTERnet+broadCAST TV). It's a Teletext capable TV tuner, with radio tuner allowing you to capture video to hard disk & listen to FM radio in HiFi stereo. To control all functions an infra red remote control is included.

Features:

- TV tuner for antenna or cable network
- Teletext and stereo sound
- Connection for external sources (all standards)
- Digitisation of video sequences (capture) raises the resolutions up to 768 x 576 pixels typically 320 x 240 for full frame rate (25/s)
- Record and play back video clips from television and the push of a button
- FM stereo tuner for antenna or cable network
- Space-saving sandwich design, takes up only one PCI slot in your computer
- miroMEDIA Manager control software
- Automatic TV-station name recognition

LAK112 miroMEDIA PCTV Pro **$369**

LAK104 miroMEDIA PCTV **$249**

Kodak digital science DC200 Digital Camera

NEW PRODUCT

Kodak continues to break barriers with a lower priced "megapixel" digital camera.

The DC200 camera looks and operates like a conventional point-and-shoot camera. Users simply frame their subjects through the optical viewfinder and press the shutter button on the top of the camera. An instant review feature lets people see the picture immediately on the LCD panel, and delete it if they are not happy. The colour LCD may also be used as a viewfinder, and allows users to review, organise and delete pictures individually on the camera.

Features

- Built-in automatic flash
- 1.8-inch colour liquid crystal display (LCD)
- 1152 x 864 pixel progressive scan image sensor
- Threaded lens to accept standard-mount accessory lenses
- "Finished file" enables easy transfer of pictures from the camera to the computer
- Direct FlashPix file format support inside the camera makes digital imaging faster and easier
- JPEG image format as its other finished file option
- TV/Video output capability provides easy review of pictures through a video monitor of television
- A 4MB CompactFlash removable memory card, included with the camera, stores up to 60 pictures
- Packaged with easy-to-use software for Windows 95 and NT 4.0.

KOD024 Kodak DC200 Digital Camera **$1039**

Kodak digital science DC220 Digital Camera

NEW PRODUCT

New digital camera from Kodak combines highest image quality, ease-of-use, versatility

More than just another point-and-shoot camera, the Kodak Digital Science DC220 zoom digital camera offers one million (1152 x 864) pixels per image. The camera has a 2X optical zoom and can digitally "zoom in" to 4X. A Motorola PowerPC 800 series processor speeds image processing and adds functionality. It takes the DC220 less than 0.2 sec to capture an image and it can capture the subsequent image almost instantaneously.

Features

- Larger, two-inch colour LCD screen
- Audio feedback allows you to record sound with images.
- Universal Serial Bus (USB) enabling much faster transfer and downloading.
- IrDA version 1.0 support and finished file formats (JPEG and FlashPix) for seamless transfer pictures from camera to computer.
- Through its intuitive graphical user interface, Kodak Digital Science Picture easy 3.0 makes using, storing and sharing digital images effortless .
- 8 MB Picture Card comes with the camera - it's like a reusable digital roll of film.
- Built-in Orientation sensor automatically rotates the image so it's always right-side-up.
- Scripting capabilities so you can customize the camera to execute complex operations with "point-and-shoot" simplicity.

KOD025 Kodak DC220 Digital Camera **$1979**

Kodak digital science 2801IDE CD Writer

Kodak increases performance with another user friendly, low cost way to store and share information.

Unlike CD-RW, CD-R discs are readable in almost all of the existing CD-ROM drives on the market. This means users can write up to 650MB of information on one disc and easily share that information with other users.

The Kodak Digital Science 2801IDE CD Writer utilizes the low cost and high capacity that CD-R media provides, along with the very latest in CD-R recording software technology.

NEW PRODUCT

Features

- 2 speed write and 8 speed read internal ATAPI-IDE unit
- Improved software functionality
- Help features
- User interface
- Audio writing capabilities
- Improved installation manual to ensure a trouble-free installation process.
- New improved software - CeQuadrat ToGo! 4.5 & CeQuadrat Packet CD

The 2801IDE CD Writer is aimed at both mainstream and high-performance personal computer users and is ideal for desktop/web publishing, software developers, small office/home office, business professionals and home users.

KOD026 Kodak 2801IDE CD Writer..... **$599**

Kodak digital science CD-R Media

Records text, images, data, audio & any digital file.

KOD027 Kodak 74 min CD-R Media NSP Single..... **$3.20**

KOD028 Kodak 74 min CD-R Media KSP Single..... **$3.20**

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*See page 2 for Price Pledge

OLYMPUS® CAMEDIA

The world leader in digital cameras, setting new standards of price and performance

CAMEDIA C-1400L & C-1000L

These all-in-one models combine high-resolution with lightweight case, a built-in 3x zoom lens, intelligent flash, and TTL (through the lens) SLR type viewfinder.

The innovative and ergonomic designed C-1400L features a 2/3" 1.4 million pixel (gross) progressive scan CCD delivering a maximum 1280 x 1024 pixel resolution, while the C-1000L users a 1/2"850,000 pixel (gross) progressive scan CCD delivering a maximum 1024 x 768 pixel resolution.

Fast photo quality imaging for your business

Both models feature:

- SLR type viewfinder
- 3x zoom, all glass aspherical f2.8 autofocus lens
- Use of SmartMedia removable memory cards
- 4.5cm rear panel TFT colour LCD for reviewing images
- 3 levels of compression
- Autoflash with red-eye reduction, fill-in and flash off modes
- Connection kit for Windows PC and Macintosh
- Includes Cameria utility software, TWAIN driver, and Kai's PhotoSoap imaging software

What the press are saying:

"The Olympus C-1400L digital camera delivers professional level digital photography to the consumer market. ... The lens is the best of any consumer camera I have tested. ... If image quality, performance and features are your purchase criteria then move quickly, because these cameras will be in high demand." *The Weekend Australian - 7 February 1998*

"..the Olympus C-820L is a top quality product. If you want great features, with excellent image quality and a compact design, then this camera should be top of your list... A deserving Quality award winner."

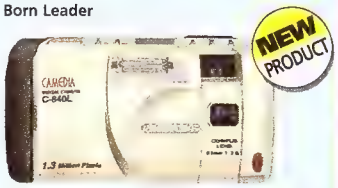
Australian PC @uthority - February 1998

OLY002 OLYMPUS C-1400L.....**$2449**

OLY003 OLYMPUS C-1000L.....**$1899**

CAMEDIA Olympus Camedia C-840L

The compact Megapixel Digital Camera That Is a Born Leader



Main Features

Outstanding Image Quality: 1/2.7-inch CCD with 1.3 million square pixels a major advance over the 810,000-pixel C-820L. The new high-resolution lens and improved colour management system delivers a high-quality image, optimizing the colour matching between the CCD and the optics.

Photographic Controls: Includes three resolution modes (Standard Quality at 640 x 480, High Quality at 1280 x 960, and Super High Quality 1280 x 960 with least image compression for superior image quality).

Ultralight, Compact and Stylish: Weighs only 245g. Ergonomic design makes for easy handling.

Sophisticated Functions: High-resolution 2-inch colour LCD monitor, video output, fast recording and many of the automatic functions found in 35mm cameras (macro mode, sequence mode, autofocus, exposure compensation, red-eye reduction, and more...)

Olympus's SmartMedia (SSFDC): The removable SmartMedia memory card extends portability and storage convenience. A 4MB card is provided as standard.

OLY014 OLYMPUS C-840L.....**$1459**

OLY004 OLYMPUS C-820L.....**$1259**

OLY005 OLYMPUS C-420L.....**$959**

Accesories:

OLY006 4MB SmartMedia Standard Card....**$99**

OLY007 8MB SmartMedia Standard Card....**$175**

OLY008 NiMH Battery Set.....**$129**

OLY009 PCMCIA Adapter.....**$179**

OLYMPUS Film Scanner ES-10

Offering exceptional value, quality and performance, the new Olympus ES-10 Film Scanner lets you scan both 35mm and Advanced Photo System film with ease.

The ES-10 Film Scanner brings the performance and convenience of a dedicated film scanner within everyone's reach. And because it connects directly to your computer, no SCSI interface card is needed.

Features

- 35mm negative or positive film scanning
- Advanced Photo System IX240 cartridge negative or positive film (Optional)
- Image Output35mm: 1600 x 2400 pixels (1770dpi) - Non interpolated
- Interface: 8 bit parallel
- Outstanding image quality
- Compatible with 35mm (Advanced PhotoSystem adaptor optional)

OLYMPUS

OLY002 OLYMPUS Film Scanner ES-10 (Win).....**$859**

Deluxe 104 Keyboard

Start typing immediately with the Logitech Deluxe 104 keyboard.

Easy installation and a standard 104-key layout is quiet, and provide tactile feedback, making typing a pleasure.

Convenient Windows 95 "hot-keys" provide an instant access to the Start and contextual menus. The detachable palm rest gives you new choices for comfort and extra flexibility.

- Elegant, reliable 104-key keyboard
- Includes 3 Windows 95 "hot keys"
- Easy Installation.
- Attractive, detachable palm rest
- Quiet, tactile key action

3 Year Warranty

LOG083 Deluxe 104 Keyboard...**$49**

Internet Keyboard

Logitech

The Logitech Internet Keyboard puts Web browser control at your fingertips.

A must for all internet enthusiasts

With seventeen dedicated buttons providing one-touch access to the Explorer or Navigator commands you use most often, you don't even have to take your hands off the keyboard to navigate the Web.

Programmable buttons that are easy to customize take you instantly to your favorite sites and applications. Regular keyboard functions are convenient too, since the elegant design provides quiet, full-size keys in a familiar 104-key layout.

Rest your hands on the gently curved palm rest during typing breaks. Detach it when you want more desk space.

LOG082 Internet Keyboard **$69**

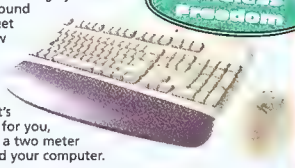
Cordless Desktop

Logitech

Go cordless for total freedom

The Logitech Cordless Desktop frees you to work better. With this combination of cordless keyboard and cordless MouseMan Pro mouse you'll never again have to arrange your desk and work around cables that get tangled. Now you can use the keyboard and mouse any way that's comfortable for you, anywhere in a two meter range around your computer.

Cordless Freedom



- Digital Radio technology for maximum reliability and response - two meter range
- Sleek, compact 104 Keyboard with full size keys
- Detachable palm rest fits the way that you work

LOG081 Cordless Desktop ..**$199**

FIRST MOUSE PLUS

Logitech

features a unique wheel button that is both a third customisable mouse button and a wheel providing full functionality in Microsoft Office 97. Logitech's wheel lets you scroll in all Windows 95 applications, Microsoft Office 97, and the Internet Explorer.

Features unique wheel button

WARRANTY: 1 year

LOG060 First Mouse Plus.....**$45**

MOUSEMAN PLUS

Logitech

The innovative Logitech MouseMan + is designed for maximum comfort with humans in mind and includes a wheel button. Scroll in any Windows 95 application and zoom in Microsoft Office 97. Four customisable buttons.

3 Year Warranty

WARRANTY: 3 years

LOG062 New MouseMan Plus.....**$92**

All prices INCLUDE sales tax. Prices subject to change, see page 2 for terms & conditions.

Taishika

High Performance Graphics Cards

2Mb PCI Card (s3-Trio 64)

$79

TAS014

Amazing Value

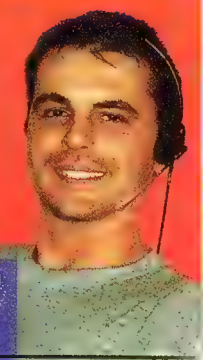
4Mb 3D Riva 128 Card

$269

Available in PCI or AGP

PCI Card: TAS015
AGP Card: TAS021

128 Bit 3D PERFORMANCE ONLY **$269**



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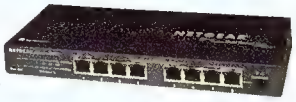
10/100 Mbps Dual Speed Hubs - NEW

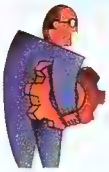
NEW PRODUCT

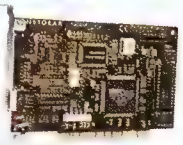
BAY150 8 Port 10/100 Mbps slimline Hub	$839
BAY151 8 Port 10/100 Mbps stackable Hub	$1129
BAY152 16 Port 10/100 Mbps stackable Hub	$1959

Upgrade your network at your own pace to 100 Mbps. Supporting 8 to 128 users the individual ports operate at either 10 Mbps or 100 Mbps depending on the speed of the device attached.



Network Cards





Features
- Plug & Play
- Supports all major OS systems
- Lifetime warranty and free technical support

FA310 PCI 10/100 Ethernet Adaptor
The FA310 is an auto sensing 100base-TX Fast Ethernet PCI Adaptor multimedia power-application.

BAY109 FA310 TX PCI 10/100 Ethernet Adaptor	$89
BAY155 10Mbps ISA Network Card	$45
BAY156 10/100 PCMCIA Network Adaptor	$269

Fast Ethernet Hubs and Switches

Bay Networks

Increase the performance of your network by moving to Fast Ethernet (100 mbps) hubs or switches

Features
- Auto negation - Full/half Duplex (switches only)
- speed sensing on 10/100 ports (switches only)
- Plug and play - no configuration required
- Slimline or rackmountable

BAY122 4 port, slimline, Uplink port hub	$259
BAY144 8 port, slimline, Uplink port hub	$469
BAY100 8 port, rackmount, stackable hub	$1069
BAY145 16 port, rackmount, stackable hub	$1479
BAY140 2 * 10/100 ports, slimline switch	$519
BAY141 4 * 10/100 ports, slimline switch	$919
BAY142 8 * 10/100ports, rackmount switch	$2059
BAY154 16 * 10/100 ports, rackmount switch	$3249

10 Mbps Hubs

A range of 4,8 and 16 port unmanaged hubs. Ideal for users who require an easy to install, easy to use solution.

Bay Networks

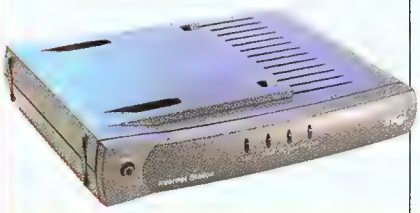
Features
- Visa LEDs clearly indicate port status
- Push button RJ-45 uplink port for expansion
- slimline or rack mountable
- Limited Lifetime Warranty

BAY131 4 port slimline	$99
BAY108 4 port slimline BNC	$125
BAY130 8 port slimline	$135
BAY105 8 port slimline BNC/AUI	$159
BAY104 16 port slimline BNC/AUI	$299
BAY121 16 port rackmount	$399
BAY148 24 port rackmount	$479

Intel InBusiness™-Simple Networking Solutions

Intel InBusiness small business networking products allows you to easily share resources and increase productivity. Designed with unique features specifically for small business networks, such as cable management and built in stacking, Intel InBusiness products bring you all the benefits of high-performance networking without complexity.
Intel offers a complete line of simple networking products designed specifically to meet the needs of small businesses, educational facilities, and workgroups. The benefits of sharing devices, services, and applications should not require a lot of time or effort, so Intel makes products that are not only easy to use and install, but incorporate the latest technology, at a price you can afford.

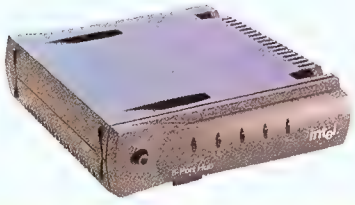
Intel InBusiness-Internet Station



Features
- Multiple user Internet Access over single line
- Single web-browser configuration and management
- InstantIP(TM) technology saves time and money on Internet addresses
- Supports both analog and ISDN lines
- Two additional ports for "dial out" and "fax out"

INT120 Intel InBusiness Internet Station $799

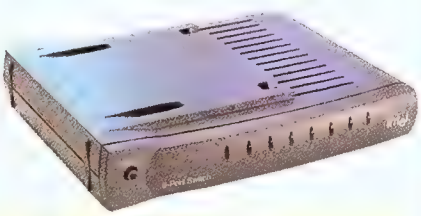
Intel InBusiness 5 - and 8 - Port Hubs



Features
- Easily connects devices to create a 10BASE-T Ethernet network or workgroup
- Simple installation, no software required
- Special "crossover" port for easy network expansion
- Optional coax connector on 8-port version
- Limited lifetime warranty

INT121 Intel InBusiness 5 Port Hubs $139
INT122 Intel InBusiness 8 Port Hubs $175

Intel InBusiness 8 - Port Switch and Switch Plus



Features
- 10BASE-T high-performance desktop switch
- Simple installation, no software required
- Special "crossover" port for easy network expansion
- Switch Plus includes two additional 10/100 ports for connection to high speed LAN or server
- Limited lifetime warranty

INT123 Intel InBusiness 8 Port switch $1009
INT124 Intel InBusiness switch plus $1479

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Adaptec Easy CD Creator Deluxe

Easy CD Creator Deluxe Edition lets you select your favourite music from LP's, cassettes and other sources, digitally filter any unwanted noise, then record your CD. You can even make your own personalised jewel case inserts, complete with titles and artwork.

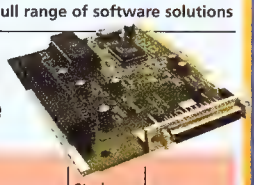
This software includes:

CD Spin Doctor - which easily turns scratchy LPs into crystal clear CDs. Stores your photographs and video. Saves your presentations and graphics. Back's up important files such as spreadsheets, tax records and financial data. Allows you to copy from one CD to another.

ADA044 Adaptec EasyCD Creator Deluxe **$149**

Please call for Adaptecs full range of software solutions

Adaptec - SCSI Kits & Cards



Adaptec's range of SCSI Controller Cards range from entry level non bootable ISA adaptors to multi-channel PCI Ultra 2Wide adapters and RAID Controllers.

Adaptec SCSI Adapters	Bus Type	Transfer Method	Floppy Support	BIOS	Number of devices supported	Device Protocol	Peripheral Support	SCSI Transfer Rate/sec	O/S Support	Stock Code	Price
AVA1505A KIT	ISA	PIO	No	No	Up to 7	SCSI 1,2	CD-ROM All Standard	Up to 5Mb	Dos/Win&Win95/NT	ADA055	$125
AHA1520B KIT †	ISA	PIO	No	Yes	Up to 7	SCSI 1,2 Fast SCSI	SCSI All Standard	Up to 10Mb	All OS**	ADA040	$289
AHA1542CP KIT †	ISA	DMA	Yes	Yes	Up to 7	SCSI 1,2 Fast SCSI	SCSI	Up to 10Mb	All OS**	ADA056	$569
AHA2940PCI †	PCI	DMA	No	Yes	Up to 7	SCSI 1,2 Fast SCSI	All Standard SCSI	Up to 10Mb	All OS**	ADA057	$579
AHA2940U KIT †	PCI	DMA	No	Yes	Up to 7	SCSI 1,2 Fast SCSI Ultra	All Standard SCSI	Up to 20Mb	All OS**	ADA058	$525
AHA2940UW KIT †	PCI	DMA	No	Yes	Up to 15	SCSI 1,2 Fast Wide Ultra	All Standard SCSI	Up to 40Mb	All OS**	ADA059	$669
AHA2940U2W KIT †	PCI	DMA	No	Yes	Up to 15	SCSI 1,2, Fast SCSI, Fast Wide, Ultra SCSI, Ultra Wide, Ultra 2,	All Standard SCSI	Up to 80Mb	Win NT4.0 & 5.0, Win 95, NetWare 3.1x & 4.x SCO UnixWare 2.1.2, OS/2 Warp 3 & 4 and SCO Unix 3.2v4.2	ADA051	$935
AHA3940AU KIT	PCI	DMA	No	Yes	Up to 14	SCSI 1,2 Fast SCSI, Ultra SCSI	All Standard SCSI	Up to 40Mb (20Mb per Channel)	All OS**	ADA060	$929
AHA3940AUW KIT †	PCI	DMA	No	Yes	Up to 30	SCSI 1,2 Fast SCSI, Fast Wide Ultra SCSI, Ultra Wide	All Standard SCSI	Up to 80Mb (40Mb per Channel)	All OS**	ADA061	$1069

*Peripheral Support of Hard Disk, CD Rom, Removables, MO, tape, DAT, Flopticals **O/S Support: DOS(3.3 & up), Win 3.1/95, SCO Unix, Solaris Unix, UnixWare, NetWare(3.1,3.11,3.12, & up), Windows NT(3.1,3.5,4.0) & O/S/2(2.0, 2.1) † Also available as card only.
Please call for Adaptecs full range of SCSI cards

SCSI Adaptors

APA-358 Combo Kit

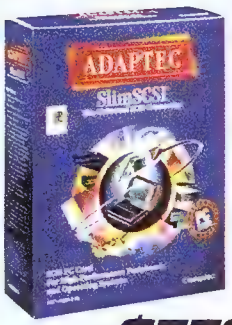
APA-358 Combo - Parallel to SCSI Adaptor allows you to connect SCSI peripherals to your desktop or notebook's PC's parallel Port. Connect SCSI drives, tape, CD Roms, Syquest and Jaz.

Features:
- Simple external connectivity to any external parallel port, perfect for **portable PCs or desktops**
- Convenient, integrated SCSI adapter and 3-foot cable
- Complete EZ-SCSI software for easy installation and full SCSI peripheral **device support**
- Simultaneous use of printer and up to seven SCSI devices on the parallel port
- Lightweight, portable design
- Provides transfer rates up to 1 MByte/sec, three times faster than traditional **parallel ports**
- Full flexibility; use your SCSI devices on your portable or your desktop with MiniSCSI

ADA062 APA-358 Combo Kit **$269**

APA - 1460-B Kit

APA - 1460-2 - A SCSI PC Card that provides an instant connection to a wide range of powerful devices via your PCMCIA Port on your notebook.



Features:
- SlimSCSI 1460 PC Card to SCSI
- 6 times faster than parallel connections
- Compatible for today's popular operating systems: Windows 95 & 3.1, Windows NT, OS/2, and DOS
- Full Plug-and-Play support for Windows 95
- Connect up to 7 SCSI peripherals via daisy-chain
- 3 cable options: SCSI 1, SCSI 2, & DB25

ADA063 APA - 1460-B Kit **$379**

PLEASE CALL FOR ADAPTEC'S COMPLETE RANGE OF SCSI ADAPTORS

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Features
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- Backup & Archive Important Files!
- Bring Presentations On The Road!
- 12ms Access Time, 512 K Buffer!
- Parallel Port Drive Supports Printer Pass-through!

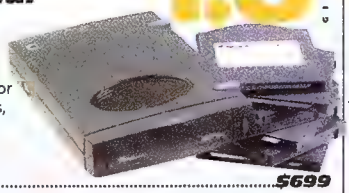
SparQ 1.0 GB FREE BONUS SOFTWARE!
SegaSoft HEAT NET Internet Game Network
NovaStor NovaDisk SE Backup Program
Serif DrawPlus 3.0 SE Drawing Program
NetResults WebVCR Download Web Sites
Alta Vista Howdy! Multimedia Email
SpryNet Internet Service
McAfee WebScan Virus Guard

Under $400! The lowest price ever for a 1GB removable storage solution. The SparQ drive combines high performance with affordability - perfect for small or home offices, business on the road, families, students, web surfers, and gamers.

SYQ034	1.0 SparQ Internal	$499
SYQ035	1.0 SparQ External	$499
SYQ036	1.0 SparQ Cartridge	$89

SyJet 1.5 GIGABYTE

"The Professional Solution"

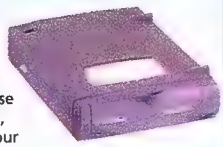


Award winning, high performance drive with enormous capacity and blazing speed. The perfect choice for musicians, graphics / dtp, publishers, webmasters & multimedia gurus. Includes one FREE 1.5 GB cartridge!

SYQ020	Internal SCSI Kit 1.5GB (PC)	$699
SYQ021	Internal SCSI Kit 1.5GB (Mac)	$699
SYQ022	External SCSI Kit 1.5GB (PC)	$699
SYQ023	External SCSI Kit 1.5GB (Mac)	$699
SYQ024	Internal EIDE Kit 1.5GB (PC)	$699
SYQ025	External Parallel Port Kit 1.5GB	$699
SYQ026	1.5MB Media for SyJet - PC	$169
SYQ027	1.5MB Media for SyJet - Mac	$169

EZFlyer™ 230MB

"The Value Solution"



EZFlyer is a great entry-level drive that combines high-end performance with extreme affordability. Use on a PC or Mac, it's the versatile answer to archiving, organizing and transporting your important files. Your EZFlyer 135 MB cartridges also work with the EZFlyer 230 MB drive.

SYQ028	External SCSI Kit (PC)	$349
SYQ032	230MB Media for EZFlyer (PC)	$65
SYQ033	230MB Media for EZFlyer (Mac)	$65

SuperDisk

The Future of Data Storage

The Imation SuperDisk diskette is a 120MB diskette bases on the high-capacity LS-120 diskette technology developed by Imation.

SuperDisk LS-120 Drive
This is the only high-capacity bootable drive solution that also reads and writes standard 1.44MB diskettes, of which there are billions in use today around the world.

Backwards Compatible
The SuperDisk LS-120 drives are backward compatible so that they can read and write all 3.5", diskettes both in 1.44MB and 720KB formats. This unique advantage means that all of the important information and data currently stored on those billions of 3.5" diskettes in use world-wide can still be accessed.

High Speed
SuperDisk LS-120 drives spin at high speed and can generate substantially faster data transfer rates. The transfer rate is up to five times faster than conventional diskette drives. Even when using conventional diskettes and are up to three times as fast as conventional drives.

Features
- Accepts all SuperDisk LS-120 and standard 3.5" floppy diskettes
- Moves files up to five-time faster than conventional drives
- Even faster with Performance Accelerator software -faster than a parallel Zip Drive
- Just plug the SuperDisk Driver into the printer port and run the installation software.

IMA003 SuperDisk LS-120 Drive **$275**

SuperDisk

LS-120 Diskettes

The SuperDisk LS-120 diskette looks similar in size and shape to the standard 3.5" diskette, and is just as simple to use 120MB capacity.

Large 120MB Capacity
With 120MB of usable capacity, a SuperDisk features 83 time more capacity than a conventional 1.44MB diskette. That's enough storage capacity to hold a blueprint for 30-story building ... or 100 spreadsheets ... or 300word processing documents or a complete interactive presentation on one SuperDisk.
SuperDisk diskettes are 20 megabytes bigger than Zip disks with a lower cost per megabyte.

Features
- 120MB storage capacity
- Same size, shape, functionality as standard diskettes
- Look and feel just like standard diskettes
- More storage for your money
- Holds up to 83 standard diskettes

IMA004	SuperDisk LS-120 Diskette (3-Pack)	$75
IMA005	SuperDisk LS-120 Diskette (5-Pack)	$119
IMA006	SuperDisk LS-120 Diskette (10-Pack)	$225

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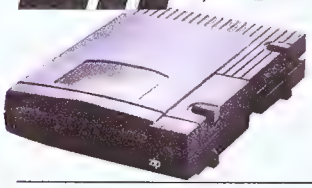
All prices INCLUDE sales tax. Prices subject to change, see page 2 for terms & conditions.

For the cost of a local call **Orderline 1300 300 003**

Sales open from 9am 'til 5pm Monday to Friday and 10am 'til 3pm Saturday

ZIP An affordable and expandable personal storage solution!



Expand your hard drive without the limits

Increase your storage quickly, easily and economically -as you need it. With 100Mb Zip Disks, you can add as many disks as you need and if you're using compression software, you can keep up to 200MB of your stuff on a single Zip drive.

IOM022 Zip Drive External (Parallel port) **$269**

IOM020 Zip Drive External (SCSI port) **$269**

AUP157 Zip Drive Internal 3.5 (Includes SCSI Controller Card) **$269**

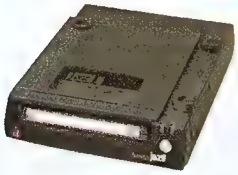
iomega™

ZIP Plus Smaller, Smarter, Faster

Smaller and an even faster drive, this is the perfect storage solution for those looking for that bit extra! Up to 28 times faster than a floppy drive. Zip Plus automatically detects different voltages around the world, whether a SCSI or parallel interface and adjusts accordingly. Also for people who work in both PC and Mac environments, ZipPlus goes everywhere and uses the same standard 100MB Zip disks that all current Zip drives use..

IOM081 ZIP PLUS **$385**

jaz 2GB — 2GB Super fast, extremely vast storage!



An ideal answer for multimedia

Jaz drives and disks are the ideal solution for storing, transporting and playing multimedia applications. You can pack up to 1 gigabyte on each disk, and there is no limit to the number of disks you can use. The jaz drive's speedy access times and rapid transfer rate mean you can quickly and easily move files around.

And the Jaz drive can handle even the most demanding usages, including full-screen full motion video.

IOM083 JAZ 2GB Ext **$1015**

IOM082 JAZ 2GB Int **$1015**

IOM023 JAZ drive (SCSI External) **$569**

IOM021 JAZ drive (SCSI Internal) **$539**

ZIP & JAZ DISKS

AUP160 3x ZIP 100Mb PC Disks **$89**

IOM030 10x ZIP 100Mb PC Disks **$232**

IOM032 3x JAZ 1GB PC Disks **$499**

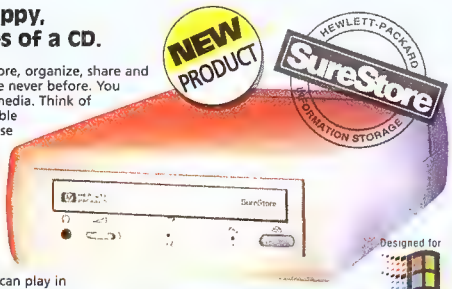
AUP162 3x JAZ 1GB Mac Disks **$549**

IOM089 3x JAZ 2GB **$589**

AUP163 JAZ Traveller
(Transfers data from a Mac to a PC) **$89**

HP SureStore CD-Re Writable 7200i/7200e

Simple as a floppy, all the qualities of a CD.



CD-Writer Plus lets you store, organize, share and distribute information like never before. You can use versatile CD-RW media. Think of it as a high capacity, durable floppy. Write, update, erase and rewrite up to 650MB of words, images, video and sound on a single CD up to 1000 times per sector per disc. Create permanent archives of all your critical data with the assurance that it will be secure for up to 100 years. Or create CDS that can play in millions of CD-ROM and Audio CD players worldwide.

Read : 6x
Write: 2x

Designed for Microsoft Windows NT Windows'95

Now including:

- Adobe PhotoDeluxe -
- Documagic PaperMaster Live -
- PhotoOrganiser -
- Corel Print House Magic -
- Norton AntiVirus -
- HP Simple Trax -

Includes Great Software Bundle Valued Over $300

PLUS all the software packages that were included with the 7100, such as:

- Adaptec Direct CD - drag and drop files to CD from Windows Explorer or save directly from any application
- Adaptec Easy CD Creator - Master CDs which can be read on CD-ROMs using Windows 95, Windows NT, Windows 3x, Macintosh and UNIX operating systems.
- Adaptec Easy CD Audio - Create music CDs
- Adaptec Jewel Case Designer - Create inserts and labels for CDs

HPP011 HP Surestore CD-ReWritable 7200i Interna **$899**

HPP012 HP Surestore CD-ReWritable 7200e External **$1099**

HPP013 HP ReWritable CD-ROM Single Pack **$35**

HPP014 HP HP CDR Recordable Media 650MB 5 Pack **$25**

HP Colorado 5GB and 5GB External

Breakthrough performance for notebook PC and desktop PC backup

Both provide an impressive capacity of up to 5GB on a single data cartridge. The HP Colorado 5GB stores data at a rate of up to 55MB per minute, while the 5GB external stores data at a rate of 40MB per minute. And because it is extremely light, the external model makes a great companion for your portable PC. And should disaster ever strike, the Windows 95 disaster recovery software gets you back in business fast by allowing you to do a full restore of your hard drive without first having to reinstall your Windows 95 operating system.

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Registered Reseller

Features:

- 2.5GB native capacity, up to 5 GB compressed
- 40-55MB/min backup speed
- Includes Colorado Backup by Computer Associates for Windows 95, Windows and DOS
- Supports Windows NT 4.0 backup utility
- Install Assistant software for easy installation and configuration of internal drives
- Disaster recovery for Windows 95
- Low cost HP Colorado 5GB media
- Two year limited warranty

HWP301 HP Colorado 5GB Internal **$479**

HWP302 HP Colorado 5GB External **$599**

HWP303 HP Colorado 5GB Minicartridge **$55**

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BPAY

- Call your participating bank; just like you do now with telephone banking.
- Follow the recorded prompts to make this payment from your (cheque, savings or credit card).
- Your customer reference number (eg. account number) is on your invoice or ask our sales staff who will advise you of your customer reference number.
- You will need to enter International Software Warehouse's biller code: 4358.

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EVERYTHING FOR YOUR PC - DELIVERED NATIONWIDE!

Seagate is a leading provider of tape products that include Travan, Dat and AIT Technology with capacities ranging from 4GB to 50GB.

TRAVAN

High performance and capacity, cost, multigigabyte data protection for servers and workstations

TRAVAN FEATURES:
- Low cost back-up solution
- Both IDE and SCSI interfaces
- Back up rate up to 60mb/min
- "Fastsense" feature optimises back-up rate

INTERNAL

SEA140 STT28000A-RFT IDE 4-8GB . . **$579**

SEA141 STT28000N-RFT SCSI 4-8GB . **$649**

EXTERNAL

SEA142 TST8000E-SBET SCSI 4-8GB . . **$969**

Both Kits include a tape and a copy of Seagate Back Up Exec for Win 3.X, 95 & NT Workstation.

SCSI DAT

Highest performance and capacity, low cost, multigigabyte data protection for high-end servers and workstations.

DAT FEATURES
- Now with improved Unix support features
- Back-up rate up TP 120mb/min

INTERNAL

SEA143 STD-24000N-SB SCSI 2-4GB **$1299**

SEA144 STD-28000N-SB SCSI 4-8GB **$1549**

SEA145 STD224000N-SB SCSI 12-24GB **$2149**

Please call for external pricing

WIDE SCSI AIT

Higher Capacity, Faster Performance

Based on the Advanced Intelligent Tape standard, Wide SCSI AIT tape store up to 50 Gbytes of data on each tape, and transfer data at 6 Mbytes/sec. They also include a self-cleaning mechanism that eliminates the need for routine maintenance.

WIDE SCSI AIT FEATURES
- Up to 6MB/sec back-up
- Optional MIC for faster data/access retreivalWide SCSI AIT features
- Up to 6MB/sec back-up
- Optional MIC for faster data/access retreival

INTERNAL

SEA146 STA150000W-S Wide SCSI 25-50GB . . **$5549**

EXTERNAL

SEA147 STA650000W-S Wide SCSI 25-50GB . . **$6329**

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EPSON Stylus Color 600

1440dpi Photo real output

The EPSON Stylus Color 600 is a high quality inkjet printer providing 1440dpi photo-real output, ideal for in-house desktop publishing and business and personal documents on all types of paper, including plain. The Stylus Color 600 features Epson's new Perfect Picture Imaging System, including MicroPiezo Technology for small accurate inkdots and AcuPhoto Halftoning Technology for accurate colours and smooth graduation. The printer is fully compliant with Windows 95 ICM and Macintosh.

- Photo quality printing up to 1440 x 720dpi
- Superb plain paper printing up to 720 x 720 dpi
- Windows & Mac compatible
- Super MicroDot technology produces smaller, precise dots for sharp edges and smooth reproduction of photo images.
- Windows 95 ICM and ColorSync. 2.0 compliance
- The best all-round, high resolution personal printer for home office and small business
- Ideal for presentations, photo image reproduction, reports, flyers, newsletters, letterheads and correspondence

EPS135 EPSON Stylus Color 600. **$419**

EPSON Stylus Photo 700

6 Colour Prints

The 1440dpi Photo Printer for home printing needs!

Combining the superior performance of EPSON's PerfectPicture Imaging System and 1440 dpi print resolution this printer offers photographic quality colour and sharp black text printing as standard - perfect for all home printing needs. It uses 6-colour QuickDry inks, that add light cyan and light magenta to the traditional palette of cyan, magenta, yellow and black.

It comes complete with Adobe PhotoDeluxe for Windows & Mac, EPSON Print Adventure (Windows 95) for designing and printing your own photo stickers and a BONUS Paper Pack. What's more, with EPSON's Iron-On Transfer Paper you can even create images for T-shirts and craft projects.

Now you have **THE POWER TO CREATE.**

EPS312 EPSON Stylus Photo 700. **$519**

EPSON Stylus Color 850

NEW PRODUCT

High Performance, High Quality

The EPSON Stylus Colour 850 is a revolutionary new printer targeted at business and professional graphics users wanting maximum colour output combined with speed and professional graphics. It features 1440dpi resolution and high speed printing capabilities making it the ideal printer for busy professionals. The COLOUR 850 is designed for multi-platform compatibility and easy networking. An optional PostScript RIP (StylusRIP) enables it to be converted to a low-cost PostScript colour printer.

Stunning Quality

EPS315 EPSON Stylus colour 850. **$749**

EPSON Stylus Photo EX

A3 6 Colour

NEW PRODUCT

A3 Photo Quality Printing

With A3 Photo Reproduction Quality as standard, 1440 x 720 dpi resolution and 6-colour QuickDry Inks, the EPSON Stylus Photo EX is the ultimate photo printer.

It uses the latest technology to produce true photo quality output - up to A3 in size, max print width is 291mm making it the perfect colour printing solution for photographic enthusiasts, graphic designers and in-house publishers.

It supports both Windows and Macintosh colour matching systems, which together with EPSON's PhotoEnhance 2 function ensures colour photographs are optimised for colour and exposure values. And, with the optional StylusRIP the EPSON Stylus Photo EX can easily be upgraded to a PostScript printer giving you more **POWER TO CREATE.**

EPS316 EPSON Stylus Photo EX **$859**

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HP LaserJet 6L

The Personal Laser Printer for Business Users

The HP LaserJet 6L printer is ideal for business users in Microsoft(r) Windows(r), DOS or OS/2 environments who want the convenience and confidentiality of a desktop laser printer. The HP LaserJet 6L printer offers a fast 6 page-per-minute print speed, superior flexibility, optional network capability, and HP's proven laser technology for reliable performance year after year.

Get your work done faster.

- 50% Larger Engine Speed
- 1Mb Memory
- 26 Scalable Fonts
- Up to 600 x 600dpi Print Quality
- 6000 Page Duty Cycle

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HWP200 HP LaserJet 6L **$739**

HP DeskJet 6P

Network Printer

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HP's most affordable network ready laser printer

The HP LaserJet 6P Network printer is ideal for small work teams who want fast, low cost, intelligent, hassle-free network printing solutions. You get crisp, professional high-resolution laser printing and versatile paper handling. The HP LaserJet 6P Network printer is as easy to use as a personal printer. With location flexibility, you are able to place the 6P Network printer physically next to users or anywhere else on the network.

- True 600 x 600 dpi resolution
- Optional JetDirect EX Plus print server and high speed parallel cable (IEEE 1284 compliant)
- Powerful HP JetAdmin software provides easy installation, configuration and maintenance of printer.
- Speedy 8 ppm engine 24-Mhz RISC processor and instant on-fuser delivers fast printing
- Two paper sources holding up to 350 pages.
- 2 Mbytes of memory is effectively doubled with HP Memory Enhancement Technology.
- Three universal SIMM slots lets you add memory.

HWP143 HP DeskJet 400C **$1525**

HP ScanJet 5100C Desktop Scanner

HP ScanJet 5100C Colour Desktop Scanner

The HP ScanJet 5100Colour scanner delivers high-quality results, even if you never used a scanner before.
Fast, easy and accurate.
Breakthrough HP technology acts as a built-in expert for great results the first time - and every time you scan.

- In just one step photos are optimised, black and white line art and logos can be scaled infinitely, and text is captured accurately ,ready for editing.
- Exceptional images automatically with HP intelligent scanning technology.
- Scan photos, text, logos or whole pages directly into your favourite applications in a single step.
- Great results two or three times faster than other scanners.
- Install as easily as a printer! It's as simple as connecting a cable.

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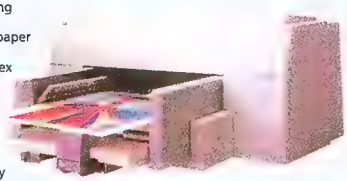
HPS010 HP ScanJet 5100C **$509**

HPS011 HP ScanJet 5100C + Adobe Photoshop 4.0 (OEM) **$719**

HPS010 HP DeskJet 400C + OmniPagePro U/G (OEM) **$745**

HP DeskJet 670C

Create business reports, presentations, graphs, newsletters and other specialized documents on a wide variety of HP Premium paper types and media. With dazzling color and solid black-and-white, the HP Features:



- Print in black or color without switching cartridges
- No-fuss printing on a wide variety of paper types and media: plain and premium papers, envelopes, transparencies, index cards, labels and more
- Speedy printing-up to 4 ppm black, 1.5 ppm color
- Quick and easy driver installation
- HP's RealLife Imaging System with HP Resolution Enhancement technology (REt) ensures photo-quality color and sharp, crisp blacks
- HP ColorSmart technology automatically adjusts settings for the best color There's no guesswork involved
- HP printers, papers and ink are specially designed to work together for the best results
- Compatible with MS-DOS, Microsoft Windows 3.1x and Windows 95 software

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Registered Reseller

HWP203 HP DeskJet 670C **$269**

HP DeskJet 890C

Brilliant photo-quality colour for every business need!

Add vibrant colour to all your business documents-faster than ever- with the HP DeskJet 890C Professional Series printer. Make a colourful impact with everything you print. Your documents will look better and printer faster with the printer designed expressly for today's business environment.

The speed you need, HP PhotoREt II advances colour print quality without compromising speed. You'll spend less time waiting for the printer, and more time managing your business with the fast HP DeskJet 890c Professional Series printer. It prints up to 9ppm in black and 5ppm in colour to keep any office on the fast track.

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HWP021 HP DeskJet 890C **$839**

HP DeskJet 720C

Brilliant Colour, Fast Performance!

Looking for a business partner that gives you sharper, more realistic colour for everything that you print? Then take a look at the HP DeskJet 720C. It provides brilliant photo-quality colour and crisp black text on any paper bringing everything you print to life.

The HP DeskJet 720C gets your printing done quickly up to 8 ppm in black and 4ppm colour. plus you can print on a variety of paper types including plain and premium papers, transparencies, envelopes, cards, labels, banners, special photo papers and iron on transfers

HEWLETT PACKARD
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HWP323 HP DeskJet 720C **$629**

HP DeskJet 1120C

Versatile Photo-quality Business printing

Vibrant, natural photo-quality colour, fast black printing and versatile printing options makes the HP DeskJet 1120C ideal for every business. With the HP PhotoREt II, the HP DeskJet 1120C produces smaller ink drops for smoother colours and more shades producing clear, vibrant , natural-looking results.

- Prints on any size from 4x6 to 11x17 (A3)
- HP's exclusive printing software
- Reduce or enlarge at the touch of a button
- Billboard printing for posters up to 1.2m high
- Automatically arranges pages for binding
- Banner, manual two-sided printing features
- Three paper paths for printing plain, glossy and recycled papers, transparencies, envelopes, oversized envelopes, labels, even card stock (up to .33mm thickness)

HEWLETT PACKARD
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HPP019 HP DeskJet 1120C **$949**

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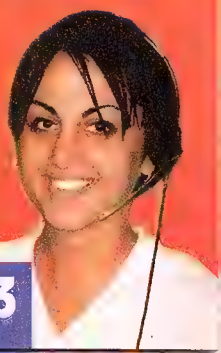

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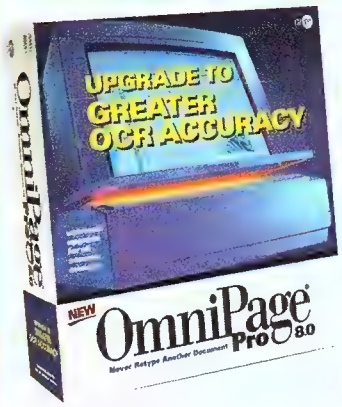


Omnipage PRO v8.0 Upgrade

Upgrade to Greater OCR with OmniPage Pro 8.0!

OmniPage Pro 8.0 the latest version of the world's best-selling optical character recognition (OCR) software, lets you quickly and easily convert scanned pagesinto computer-editable documents, more accurately than ever before. Other new features include enhanced integration with Microsoft Word, and multithreading for faster processing.

Top Selling OCR software

caere

Key features:

- Unsurpassed accuracy - over 99% ACCURATE!
- AutoOCR Toolbar provides one-click OCR
- Maintains format (columns, graphics, etc.) of original documents
- Scan, OCR and edit documents simultaneously with multithreading support
- Great Features like OCR Wizard, format retention, and deferred recognition
- Combined automatic and manual zones on a single page with NEW zoning tools
- Includes OmniPage Pro 6.0 for Windows 3.1 users.

STOCK CODE:MON001

$229

OmniPage Pro 8.0 UIG

MON002 OmniPage 8.0 ..... **$849**

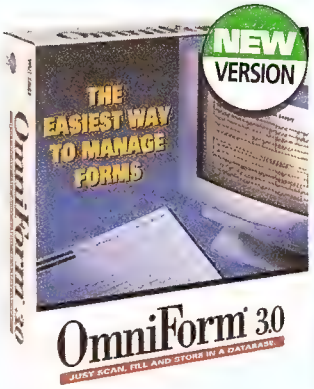
OmniForm 3.0

Convert any form into an editable electronic version.

Scan in any paper form. New OmniForm 3.0 will instantly convert it into an editable electronic version that form - ready to fill out right on your PC.

From the makers of OmniPage Pro, OmniForm uses OCR and Logical Form Recognition technology to turn paper forms into great looking electronic forms every time. Once scanned, you can easily change a form's layout, or simply fill it out by just tabbing and typing. OmniForm even makes the data on your forms more accurate with spell checking and automatic calculations.

Want to distribute your forms? OmniForm lets you print, fax and e-mail your forms. They can also be saved and filled out as Microsoft Word files. Included is OmniForm Filler which allows multiple users to fill out your forms, then store the information in a centralise database. Whether you're converting existing paper forms, or using its powerful design tools to create new ones from scratch, OmniForm makes filling our, distributing and managing forms so much faster and easier.

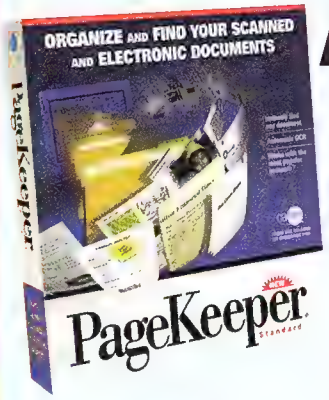


Key features:

- Scan in your paper forms and instantly get a fully editable electronic form!
- Tab-and type form filling with calculations, spell checking and centralised database!
- Save and fill out your forms in Microsoft Word formats

STOCK CODE:OMN014

$309



PageKeeper 3.0

Put All Your Scanned Pages and Electronic Files Within Instant Reach

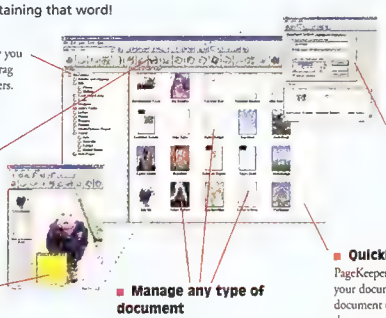
Organise scanned and electronic documents in one easy-to-use desktop. PageKeeper lets you easily organise and retrieve scanned and electronic documents - like Word, Excel, Web pages, scanned pages, just about anything. Simply organise your documents in folders and quickly browse through thumbnail views. Need a document now? Just type in a keyword and PageKeeper instantly finds all documents containing that word!

NEW VERSION

caere

Easiest way to organize
PageKeeper lets you organize documents exactly how you want them— easier than ever before. With folders, drag and drop and more, it works just like Windows folders.

- Unlimited folders give you total flexibility
- "Clip" related documents together
- Store and organize scanned images and electronic documents in one desktop



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PageKeeper shows you thumbnail views of all your documents. You don't have to open each document to see what it is. Once you find the document you want, double click to open it.

Links with your favorite applications
Once you find the document you want, you can launch the document in its native Windows application like Word, Excel, Netscape Navigator and more. The PageKeeper Application Toolbar automatically creates links to any Windows application.

Annotate your documents
Add reminder notes, freehand drawings, even highlight text. Annotating is like putting a "sticky note" on any document—regardless of file type.

Manage any type of document
PageKeeper handles all document types—scanned pages, word processing files, photos, spreadsheets, brochures, Web pages, articles, etc.—all in one easy desktop.

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MICROTEK High-Tech SCANNERS

MICROTEK 35T Plus

35mm Slide Scanner

- High-speed, high-resolution Slide Scanner
- 3,900 x 1,950 DPI Optical
- 3,900 DPI Interpolated
- Scans both negatives and positives.
- Scans strips or mounted slides.
- Imaging Magazine Editor's choice

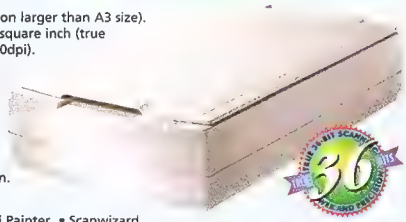
35mm slides are far more difficult to scan than standard photos. The 35TPlus is designed to scan purely 35mm slides, delivering not only the higher resolution required for slides, but also by eliminating the use of mirrors and glass, it delivers much sharper images.

PRO504 Microtek 35T Plus **$999**

MICROTEK A3 SIZE ScanMaker 9600XL

NEW A3 size 36 Bit colour high resolution scanner.

- Scans 431 x 304mm (a fraction larger than A3 size).
- 720,000 dots measured per square inch (true optical resolution 1200 x 600dpi).
- Fast single pass scanning.
- Scans true colour, greyscale and line art.
- Latest trilinear array CCD technology delivers clear, true to life colours.
- Built in SCSI interface.
- Automatic colour calibration.



Bundled with :
- Textbridge Pro OCR • Fractal Painter • Scanwizard

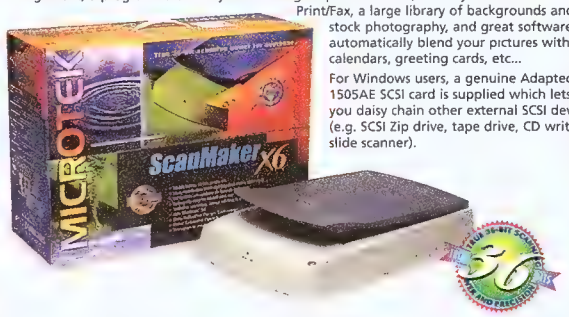
PRO517 Microtek 9600XL **$3389**

MICROTEK ScanMaker X6

The Microtek ScanMaker X6 offers a sharper image, much higher resolution, superior colour accuracy and much better shadow detail compared to entry level scanners. The benefits are clearly apparent when scanning line art (e.g. logos or line drawings), when you require enlargement of your original, when scanning transparencies or difficult colour photos. A better scanner also means you don't waste your time correcting every scan.

To make sure the X6 offers unbeatable value, an exceptional collection of quality software is offered. This includes Windows software for image editing, OCR (text recognition), document management, a program to create your own digital photo albums, a utility to SCAN to Print/Fax, a large library of backgrounds and stock photography, and great software to automatically blend your pictures with calendars, greeting cards, etc...

For Windows users, a genuine Adaptec 1505AE SCSI card is supplied which lets you daisy chain other external SCSI devices (e.g. SCSI Zip drive, tape drive, CD writer, slide scanner).



- Higher resolution than HP 6100C!
- 36 bit colour input and processing (1 pass)
- 1, 8, 12, 24 or 36 bit output
- 4 times the definition of entry level scanners
- 1200 x 600 DPI Optical
- 9,600 DPI Interpolated
- 720,000 dot measured per square inch!
- A4 Size
- FlexScan lid
- Zero Reflection Design
- Advanced Image Enhancer
- Great bundled software
- Includes Adaptec 1505AE SCSI
- Tri-linear CCD sensor array
- Dynamic range: 3.3
- 12 months warranty
- Free phone support for 1 installation on 1 platform

PRO523 Microtek ScanMaker X6 ..... **$539**

Pagis Pro 2.0

4 Powerful Scanning Products In 1 Easy To Use Program!

NEW PRODUCT

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The ultimate scanning suite for both photos & documents!

More than high quality colour scanning, Pagis Pro 2.0 offers incredible time-saving features like visual filing, Pro OCR, photo-editing, colour copying, faxing, forms fill-in, annotations, easy E-mailing of colour photos and so much more. Now discover all the ways Pagis Pro will make your scanner more valuable.

1 Instantly Organise Photos & Documents

Now easily scan and file your family photos, tax receipts, articles, letters, records and more - Pagis Pro puts everything right into your Microsoft Explorer file folders. Find anything fast! Visual thumbnails and searching by content helps you find anything as quickly as you filed it!

2 Eliminate Retyping with TextBridge Pro 98 OCR

Turn paper documents into text and pictures you can edit in your favourite word processor. Xerox' incredibly accurate TextBridge Pro 98 is the winner of PC Magazine's Editors' Choice Award for best OCR package.

3 Get Creative With Your Photos

Double click on any photo to launch MGI PhotoSuite within the Pagis Editor. Enjoy the advanced colour controls, photo retouching tools, special effects, lens filters and more! Plus you can easily make calendars, posters and greeting cards!

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Make quality colour copies right at your desktop. Simply place any document on your scanner and then click the green button to make a copy on your colour printer.

4 Powerful Scanning Products In 1 Easy To Use Program!

Features

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- Photo Editing - Easily edit, retouch and get creative with photos! Includes free template for calendars and greeting cards.
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- Fill-in Forms - Quickly fill-in forms you scan, just tab and type!
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Hayes Accura 56k Data/Fax Modem

The Only 56K Modem you need - for Compatibility, Reliability & Speed

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- The fastest Internet access available over ordinary phone lines.
- Industry Standard compatibility.
- Legendary Hayes reliability.

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HAY033 Hayes OPTIMA 56 PC Card	$525
HAY031 Hayes Accura 33.6 PC Card	$269
HAY032 Hayes Accura v34 + Ethernet PC Card	$475

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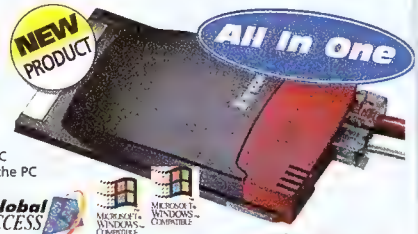
The Integrated PC Card - Nothing to Break, Nothing to Lose.
Innovative 10/100 Ethernet and 56K modem functionality offers notebook users performance benefits today and tomorrow.

Xircom breaks new ground in mobile connectivity with its RealPort Ethernet 10/100+Modem 56, the industry's first 16 bit Integrated PC Card with built-in connector system. The RealPort Integrated PC Card has all the features you need to connect to information in the office or on the road, anywhere in the world. One CD Card - no custom cables to lose. No pop-out jacks to snap and leave you stranded. Just plug your standard RJ-45 Ethernet and RJ-11 telephone connectors directly into this integrated PC Card and you're ready to access information from virtually anywhere. And when you're finished, just unplug the connectors, close the PC Card slot door on your notebook and go!
This Integrated PC Card combines the fastest 10/100Mbps Ethernet and 56K modem technology available, GSM 900, 1800, 1900/PCS 1900, and AMPS cellular connectivity, and Global ACCESS features in a single cable free PC Card.



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XIR048 RealPort Ethernet 10/100 + Modem 56 ..... **$735**

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With Optional GSM Support
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XIR035 CreditCard Ethernet 10/100 + Modem 56 ..... **$699**

CreditCard Modem 56

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The Xircom CreditCard Modem 56 - GlobalACCESS is a versatile communication solution which enables you to access information for any location, anywhere in the world, at higher speeds than current v.34 modes, up to 56Kbps.

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CreditCard Ethernet Adaptor 10/100

Connect portable PCs to 100Base-TX Ethernet networks with this high-performance PC Card adaptor!

Portable PC users can now connect to both 10Mbps Ethernet and 100Mbps Fast Ethernet networks with this high-performance PC card. Fast Ethernet is the natural migration path for over-burdened 10Mbps Ethernet networks. Now portable PC users who use graphics-based, network-intensive applications such as database access, imaging, and CAD/CAM, as well as the growing population of e-mail and internet users, can enjoy the benefits of having access to the increased band-width of 100Mbps Ethernet networks for improved response time.

XIR010 CreditCard Ethernet Adaptor 10/100 ..... **$299**

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The high-performance modem that gives you the freedom to communicate with the world, anytime, anywhere!

In the office, at home, or on the road, Xircom's CreditCard Modem 28.8 provides high-speed modem connectivity for the mobile professional. Whether accessing E-mail, downloading or faxing files, or accessing on-line services such as the Internet, the CreditCard Modem 28.8 provides a high-performance,reliable and easy-to-use solution for communicating to the world from any location, at any time.

AUP119 CreditCard Modem 33.6 ..... **$335**

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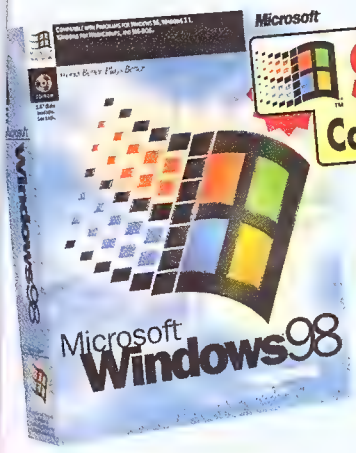

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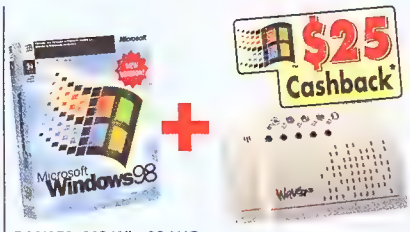

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Free bundle - WinFax Pro 8.0 Valued $125

STOCK CODE: NET138

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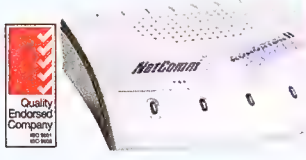
Headset included



AUZ136 NetComm Roadster 33.6K (external)	$189
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Wave SP

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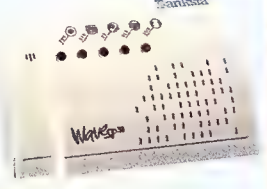

The Wave SP is the first modem to be awarded a prestigious Australian Design Mark in recognition of design excellence and innovation.
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Duel Chip

The fastest fax modem for home or office use.
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AUZ249 Banksia MY Fast Modem V.34	$235

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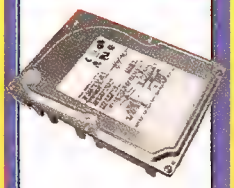

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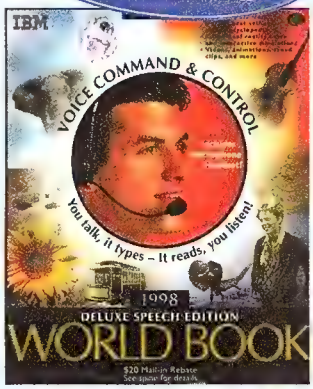

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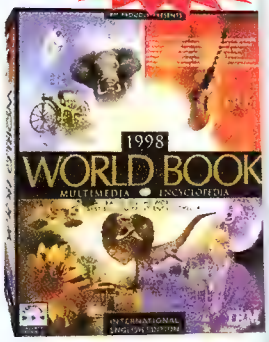

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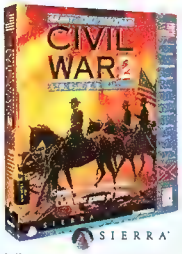

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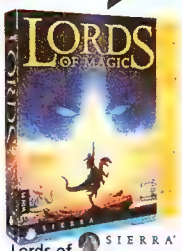

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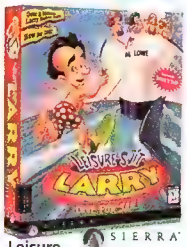

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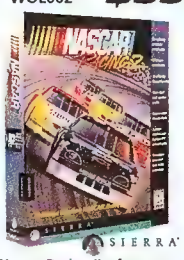

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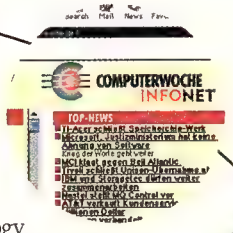

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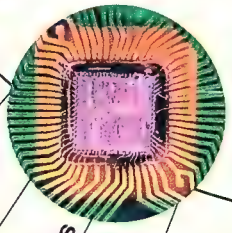

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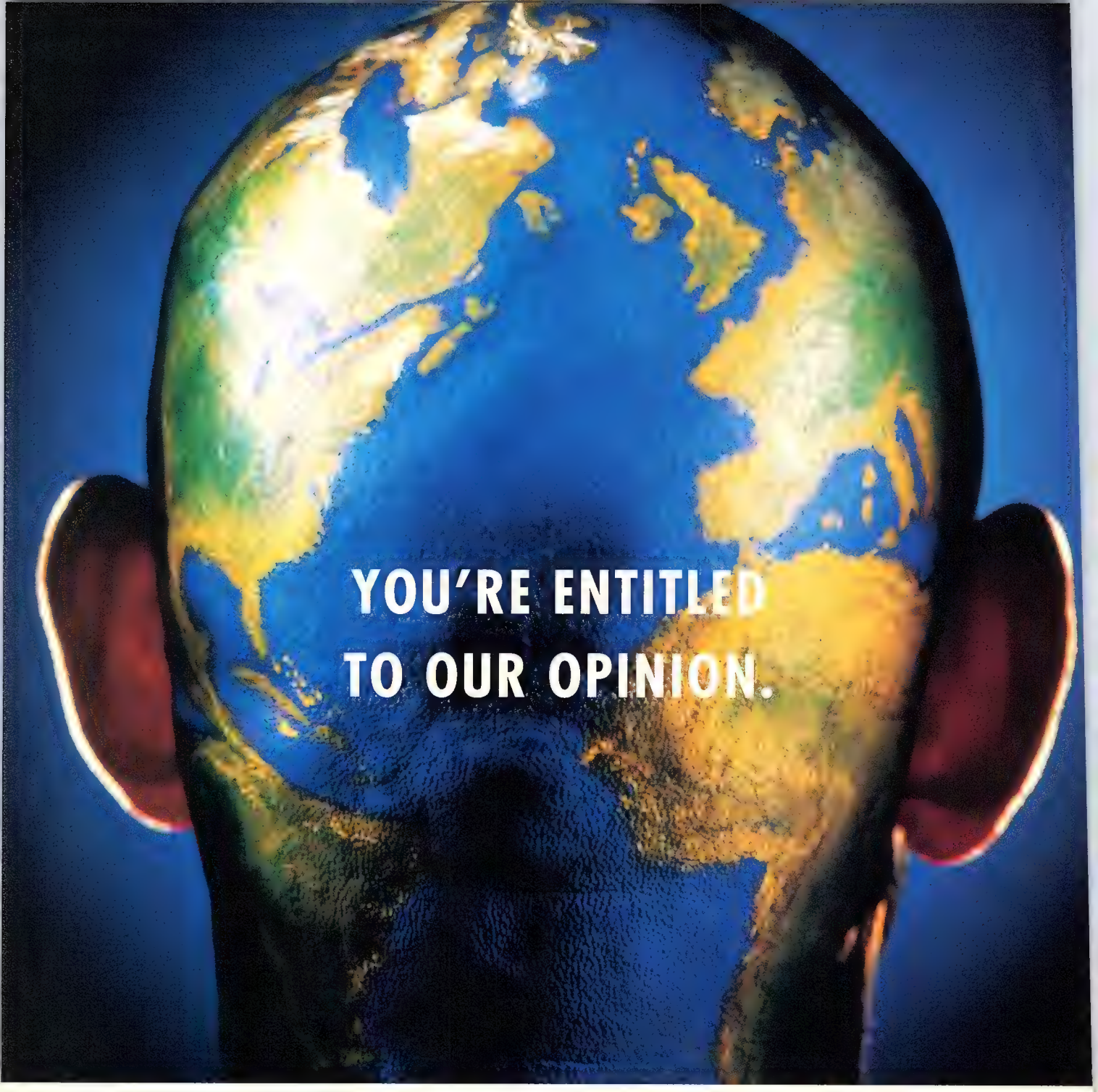
Answers for the Information Age



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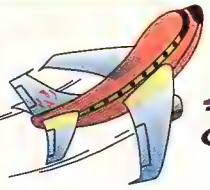

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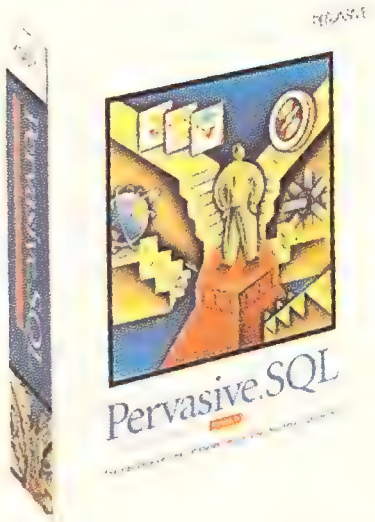

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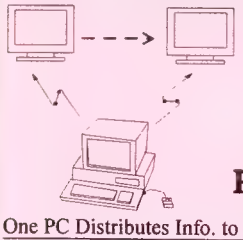

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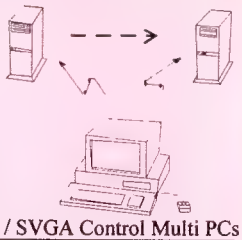

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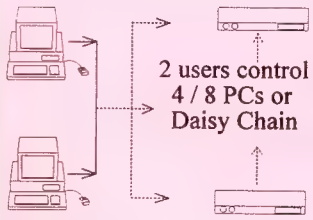

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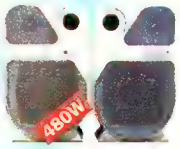

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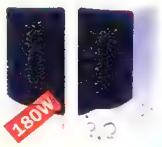

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Canon BJC-7000 & Optimiser	BC-60	2	52B
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HP Deskjet 800 Series/1600c	51641A	3x3	11BB
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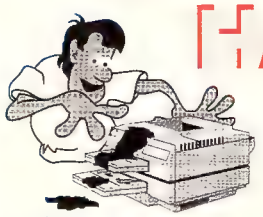

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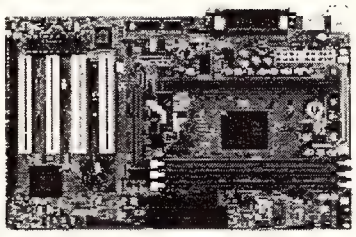

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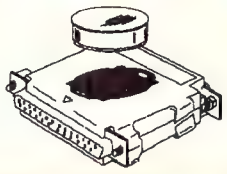

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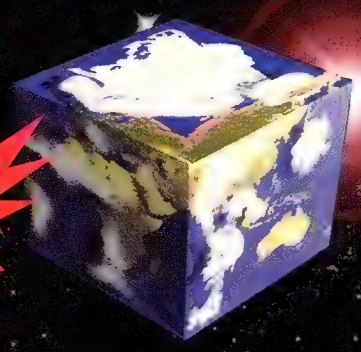

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Games

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MECH COMMANDER

Now that Microprose owns the rights to the MechWarrior series, the ball is in their possession and their first shot at goal – sorry, I've been watching too much World Cup – is Mech Commander, a refreshing digression from a Mech sim to a Mech strategy game.

Mech Commander is a real-time strategy game with a difference. From an isometric view (like Starcraft or Dark Reign), you guide a team of up to 12 Mechs as they set out to complete specific objectives in 30 missions of destroying, protecting or capturing. Much of the original theme and structure – warring clans, salvaging of mechs and weapons – has been kept, making the game feel very much like you're playing MechWarrior without the laborious task of driving one of these 80-ton monsters.

The heart of MC is the "mech bay" screen that allows you to construct the mech squad of your choice. Before each mission, you must choose a bunch of mechs for the job; however, because you acquire mechs by salvaging the battlefield, most will need costly repairs, so budgeting foresight is a definite advantage. Unlike MechWarrior, where the tonnage limit refers to your personal mech, in MC the tonnage limit covers the entire squad, which means you'll have to decide between a smaller outfit of heavier mechs, or a large number of lighter ones.

Next, you must fit those mechs with short, medium or long-range weapons, from a familiar list of mech missiles, lasers, PPCs and auto-cannons. Finally, pilots must be purchased and allocated based on their ratings in gunnery, piloting, jumping (for mechs with jump-jets) and sensors, all of which will improve with experience, providing you keep them alive. Pilots also have a health bar, which does not regenerate unless they sit out for a while. All these decisions, along with the uncertainty of whether certain mechs, pilots and weapons will be available for purchasing, make the preparatory part of MC an engrossing and strategic experience.

Commanding your troops is pretty straightforward – like any war/strat game, you select units and make them attack, guard, etc. MC also provides commands for attacking from short, medium and long distances, or from where you stand. It also lets you pinpoint an attack on the enemy's head, legs, left arm/torso, etc, although in the heat of battle these more specific commands are easily ignored. Also available in certain missions are "camera drones" that reveal a portion of uncharted terrain, sensor probes for long-distance sensing, and an unpredictable amount of artillery in the form of "small" (five-second countdown, easy to use) and "large" (12-second countdown, much harder to use on moving targets).

Graphically, MC is a step ahead of other similar games. The most notable feature is dynamic lighting for weapons; missiles and lasers light up the ground as they make their way to a target. Each mech includes a heap of animation that portrays them clambering to their feet after a hefty blow, or arms and legs flying through the air, and dynamic movement characteristics account for heavier mechs taking longer to accelerate/decelerate. Trees can be incinerated, causing bush fires, and pilots can be seen ejecting from doomed mechs and making their way back to base (if they're lucky). There is a zoomed view option for getting up close to your weighty friends, but I found it to be too much of a hindrance in battle.

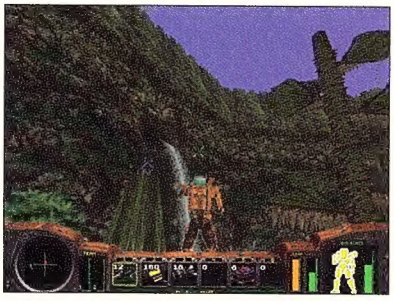
Apart from controlling and destroying mechs, you also get to play with mine layers and tanks, and destroy rocket launchers, turrets and elementals. And although there may be some of your favourite mechs or weapons missing from the game, what has been included seems like a comfortable mix to make the game workable and enjoyable. I found that because you're relieved from the mundane pressures of building and collecting resources (although you can nab parts from enemy mech warehouses), you can concentrate more on the fun part – engaging the enemy.

Mech Commander was developed by FASA Interactive and is published and distributed by Microprose. System requirements are Pentium 133 (166 recommended), 16MB RAM, 4xCD and 110MB hard disk space. Multiplayer gaming is supported via modem, serial, network or Internet. Unfortunately the demo, which features two missions that do not appear in the retail version, was too big at 116MB to fit on the cover CD, but you can find it at www.microprose.com

- Craig Swanson

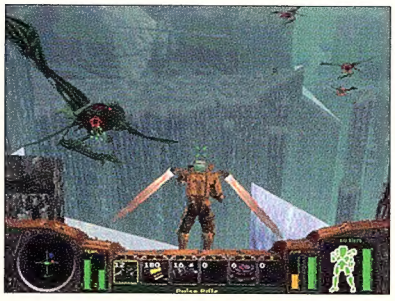
OUTWARS

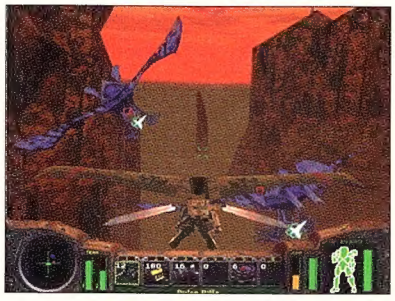
You might not be John Robinson from *Lost In Space*, but in Outwars by Microsoft, you'll have something in common as you negotiate mountains and caverns with your trusty rocket-pack. It is the 23rd century and you are a member of an elite fighting force, the Dreadnoughts, whose job is to investigate strange attacks on Earth colonies beyond our solar system.



Wearing one of four protective battle suits complete with rocket-pack (and retractable glider wings in certain missions), and heavily armed with rockets, rifles and mines, you jump-jet about, ridding the colonies of the alien scourge. But watch out: your rocket-pack will only keep you in the air for less than 10 seconds before the rechargeable energy source runs out, and leaves you freefalling into a bottomless pit.

Outwars can be played from a first person point-of-view or one of three behind views, and is best controlled with the mouse and arrow keys. Once you've mastered the minimal controls required, you'll be knocking down aliens in mid flight, while practising your landing skills.

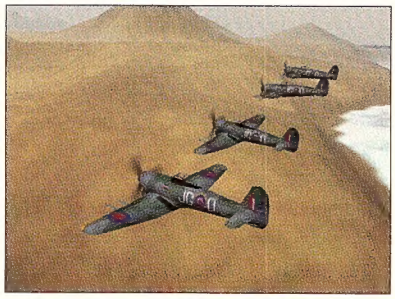




Graphically, Outwars is colourful and atmospheric, with many locations being lofty platforms suspended above an abyss. Neat little animations and comments add spice to you and your wingmen, who you control through a command menu. Orchestral background music creates a cinematic experience which subtly compliments the game, changing to suit the situation when in flight or engaging the enemy. Well worth a play – try the demo on our CD.

FIGHTER SQUADRON

Four Typhoons looking for a dogfight – the slick-looking Fighter Squadron by Activision hits the shelves in November. www.activision.com

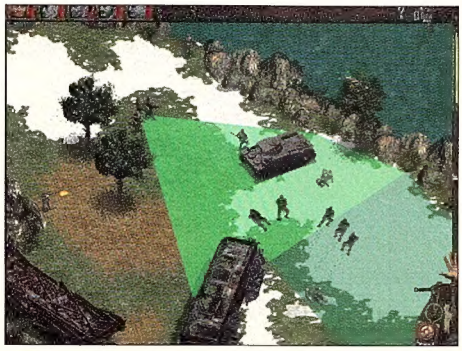


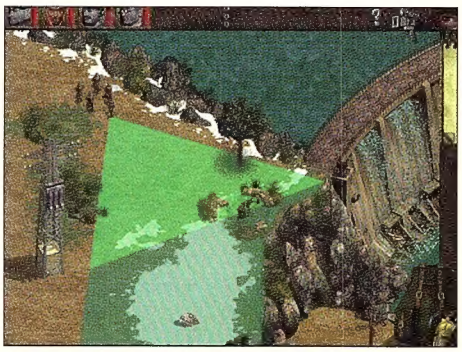
COMMANDOS: BEHIND ENEMY LINES

From *Lost In Space* to *Hogans Heroes* – Commandos: BHL is a little gem developed by Pyro Studios, and published by Eidos Interactive. From an isometric view (with a multi-window option), you control up to six commandos (a special elite group who excel in particular skills), in 24 missions set in North Africa, Norway, banks of the Rhine, and the beaches of Normandy.

Each commando can crawl, walk, run and use a pistol, while other skills (like diving, driving, handling bombs and sniping) can only be performed by the commando who possesses that skill. Each commando also has his own, more personalised, weapon, such as a spear gun, lethal injection, knife, machine gun and man trap.

By making the most of your men's particular talents, you carry out missions of stealth and cunning, which usually have you infiltrating a German camp or two, and destroying a targeted military structure. Vehicles are captured, walls are scaled and electric fences are deactivated, in a tense game of hide and kill where German patrols are constantly on the lookout, ready to shoot before asking questions. You can even move the body after you've dealt a silent blow from behind. Excellent graphics and gameplay make this one a hit. The demo on the CD lets you play missions 1 and 3 of the registered version.





Backbytes

MICROSOFT USED OUR BODIES

→ It's true, Microsoft used and abused three Australian PC World staff members as part of its launch of Windows 98 in late June. On the pretext of being collected and taken to the launch party, we were instead taken to a secret rendezvous point in an open top sports car (in mid-winter Sydney). There, we joined five other sports cars (containing similarly kidnapped journalists from other publications), three trucks carrying Win 98 billboards, a ute carrying a massive Win 98 box (blasting out music) and two NSW motorcycle police. Yes, we became a parade, screaming through the streets of Sydney for the sake of the TV cameras and bemused shoppers. The police closed roads as we sped through red lights, waving feebly to the crowds. But at least, when we got there, they revived us with shots of jellied vodka.

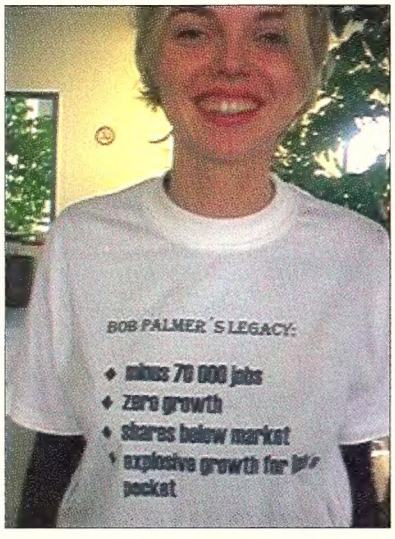
→ There was a lot of heartache in the Australian offices of two computer companies in late June. Compaq was taking over Digital, yet who was going to be boss of the new company? The contenders were Ian Penman, who had been boss of Compaq in Australia since he founded it 14 years ago, or head of Digital in Australia Ron Bunker. The former, reported to be on some $400K-plus salary, the latter on around three times that much.

→ Penman got the job. But did he get a pay rise? If you know, please drop us a line or preferably an empty pay packet as proof.

→ Novell gave away a Volkswagen Beetle at the recent PC Expo in New York. But is that the best way for Novell to be thought of . . . as the company that gives away bugs?

→ If you've ever wondered about the practicalities of finding "significant others" via the Internet, take a look at www.syndicomm.com/straight-faq.html where Dean Esmay, a self professed "straight, single male" explains the who/where/how/why/what of the successful use of Internet personal ads. This is a picture of Dean and Rosemary, just before they married. Yes, they found each other via the Net.

→ Digital employees in the US were less than pleased with their outgoing boss Bob Palmer. We found the T-shirt (that's shown below) on the Digital employee's home page. But many US Digital bosses managed to keep their jobs, despite insiders believing these were the people who had caused Digital to lose a lot of money. When Bill Strecker got the job of senior VP of technology, one Digital employee quipped: "We knew he had pictures of Bob Palmer, but I guess he's got pictures of Compaq boss Eckhardt Pfeiffer too."



"My ex-boss Bob . . ."

→ Have you been to Microsoft's new Terraserver Web site (www.terraserver.com)? It's claimed to hold as much data as the rest of the Internet put together. Oh Yeah! What it has is a massive picture database of photos taken from Russian spy satellites. If you live in Brisbane, take a look for your home, we think we saw it.

→ At least Microsoft hasn't lost its sense of humour. If you use the version of Internet Explorer that's included with Beta 1 of NT 5.0 to go to www.netscape.com, you get a blank page and the IE title bar changes to "You really shouldn't be here".

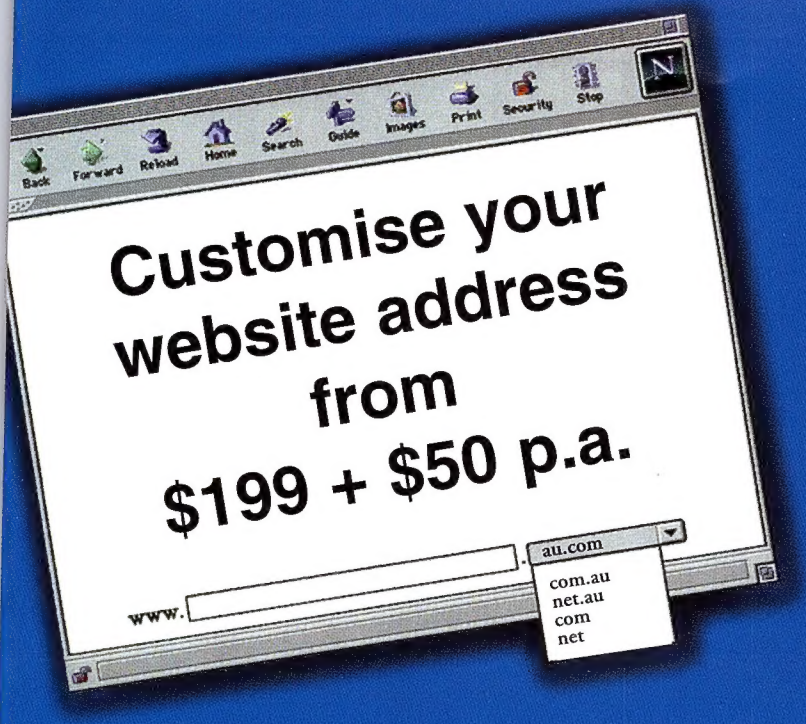
→ It seems 3Com might be on an internal witch-hunt. The company's takeover of U.S. Robotics last year isn't paying off as hoped. Meanwhile, the flagship product, the Pilot, continues to outsell all Windows CE machines put together.

→ Last month Microsoft had a "Test Page for Red Hat's Linux Apache Installation" server running that was reachable from the outside world. It soon disappeared, presumably because Big Bill doesn't want people to know he's using Linux.

→ Are you one of the hundreds of thousands of Australians who received an e-mail telling them to type the words "unable to follow directions" into Microsoft Word, select them, then hit shift-F7 to run the thesaurus? If you are, and you did, you probably wondered why the resulting suggestion "unabridged" was so interesting. This trick only works if you have your language set to "US English" and then it gives the answer "unable to have an erection". How viaggravating is that?

→ Netscape marketing heavy Mike Homer recently got married. Boss Marc Andreessen's wedding gift to Mike was a set of black latex sheets. ■

Internet Domains



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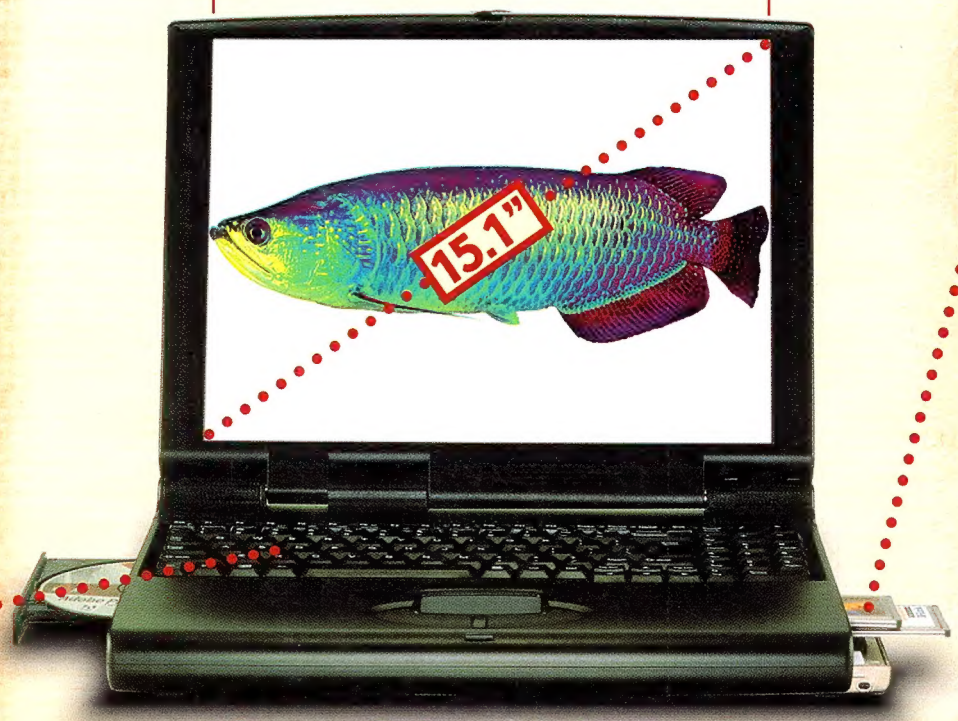
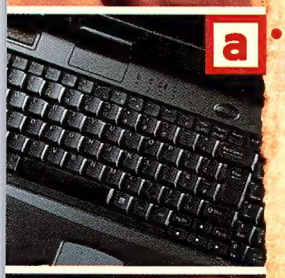
"it was THIS big"





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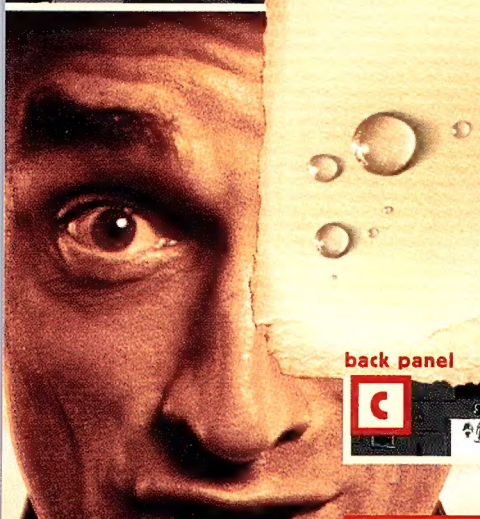

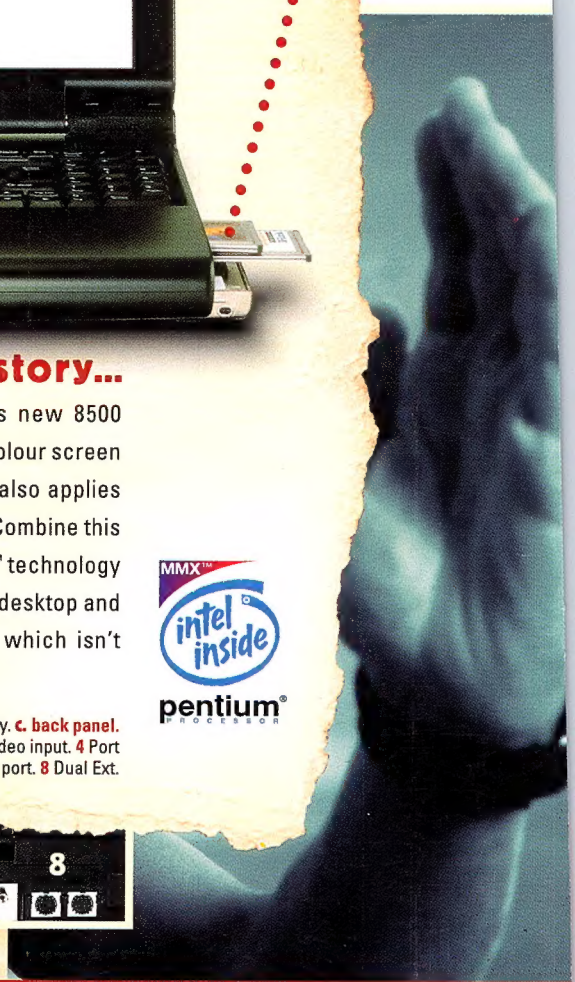

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